KING OF BANDITS

# 王ドロボウJING

THREE

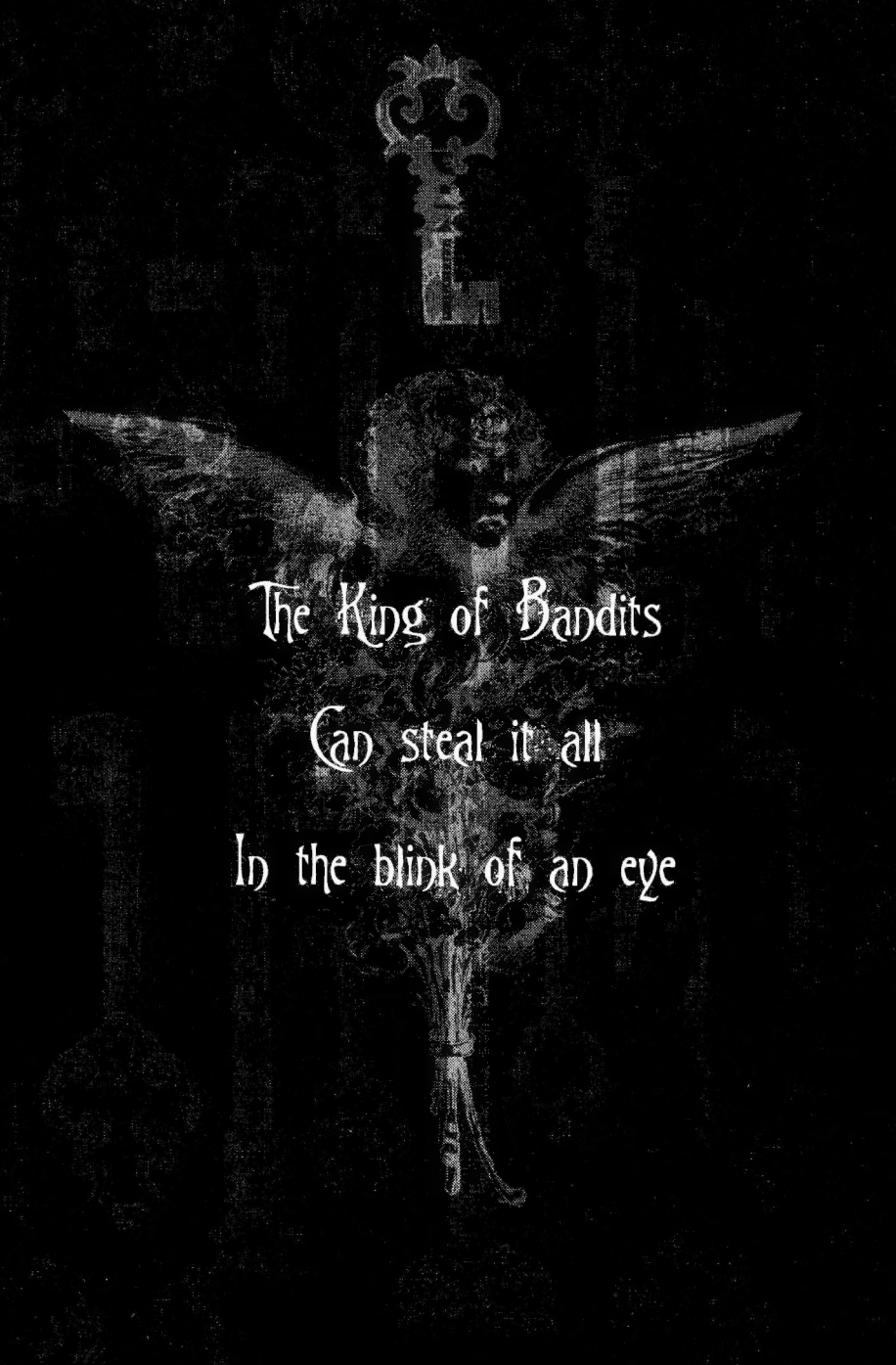
YUICHI KUMAKURA

All that glitters...

Even the stars

All things precious...

Even your life


The King of Bandits
Can steal it all
In the blink of an eye

# 王ドロボウ JING 新装版 THREE

*jing&kir&porvora*

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KING OF BANDITS

VOLUME 3 OF 7

STORY AND ART BY

YUICHI KUMAKURA

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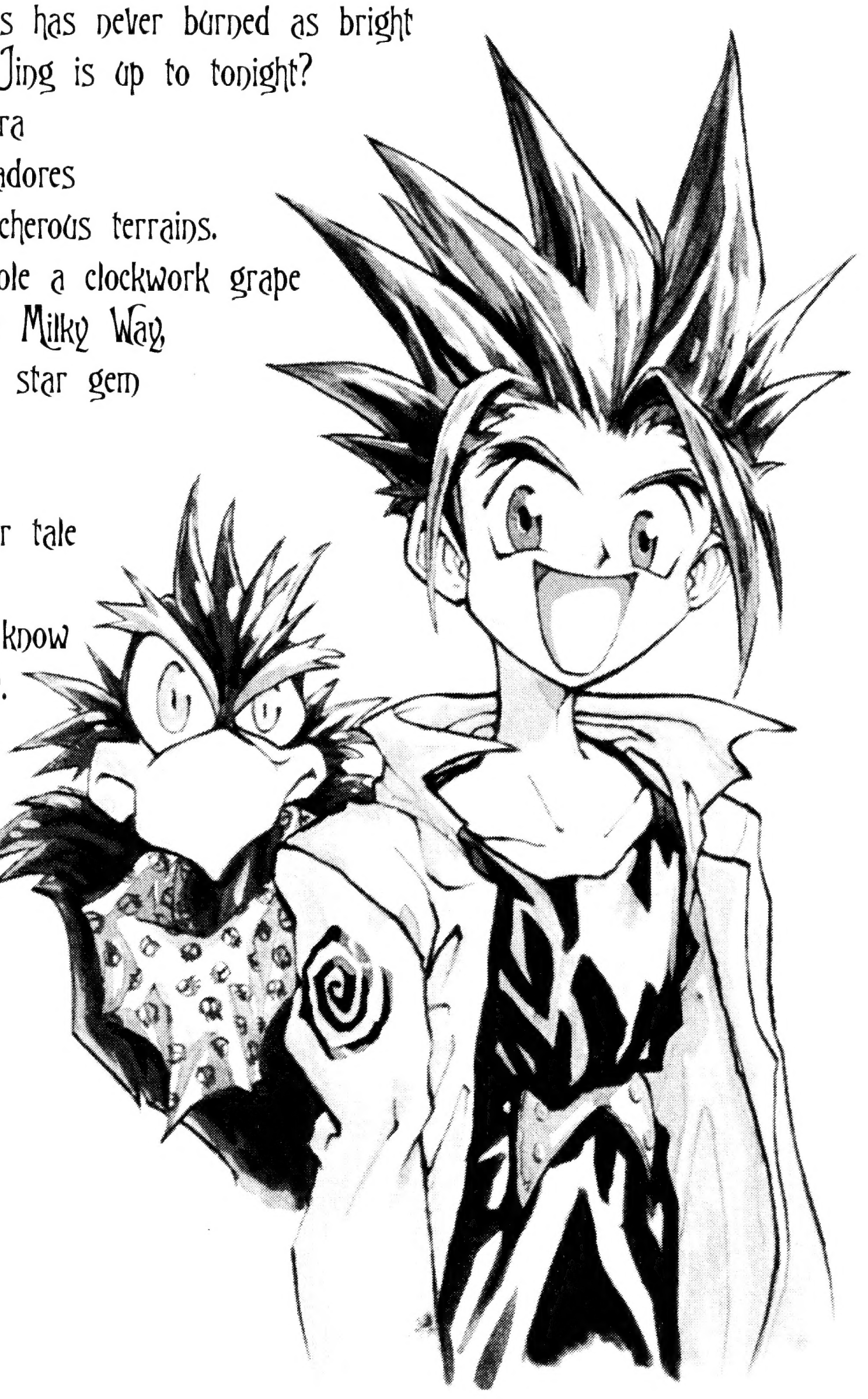
# The Story so Far...

You wonder what our Jing is doing tonight?
What merriments is Jing pursuing tonight?
The glimmer in his eyes has never burned as bright
You wonder what our Jing is up to tonight?
He's escorting a Porvora
with a babe that Kir adores
over treacherous and lecherous terrains.
The same Jing who stole a clockwork grape
now hopes to steal the Milky Way,
or at least the biggest star gem
in the night.
Right?
So lets go back to our tale
of Jing's latest plight.
I'm sure you want to know
if he gets off all right.
Well this is what
our hero Jing is
doing tonight--!



NEPTUNE

JUPITER

MILKY WAY

VENUS

GARA!

10th SHOT - THE GODDESS OF SUNGRIA

SANGRIA

OWNER GOBLET

THE REST OF THE PORVORA FAMILY IS DEAD, YOU SAY?

WHAT ?!

KIDDO, THIS RUNT COULDN'T EVEN BLOW A CORN OFF YOUR FOOT!

AND I'LL BET *COMBUSTED* CORN WOULD BE EVEN BETTER...THE KERNELS ARE NICE WHEN THEY'RE A BIT *CHARRED.*

MMM... CORN *WOULD* BE GOOD RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

HEH!! FINE. IF IT'S FOOD YOU WANT, THERE'S A JOINT INSIDE THE MINING FACILITY. EAT WHATEVER KERNELS YA CAN FIND!!

Bzz

YEAH, LET'S EAT BEFORE I GET SO SKINNY I FLOOOAAAT AWAY. I'M NOT EVEN FLAPPING MY WINGS, Y'KNOW

Bzz

DO THEY ALLOW PORVORAS TOO? HE'LL BE MORE VALUABLE IF WE FATTEN HIM UP A LITTLE.

Bzzt

SUIT YOURSELVES!!! SHEESH.

MEAL

NOW IT'S TIME TO EAT

TO THE PUBLIC
WELCOME TO
BEGINNERS
NFLAMMABLES

DOOOOOOO..oNNN!

DODOOOOOO..NN!

FIRE RAISE

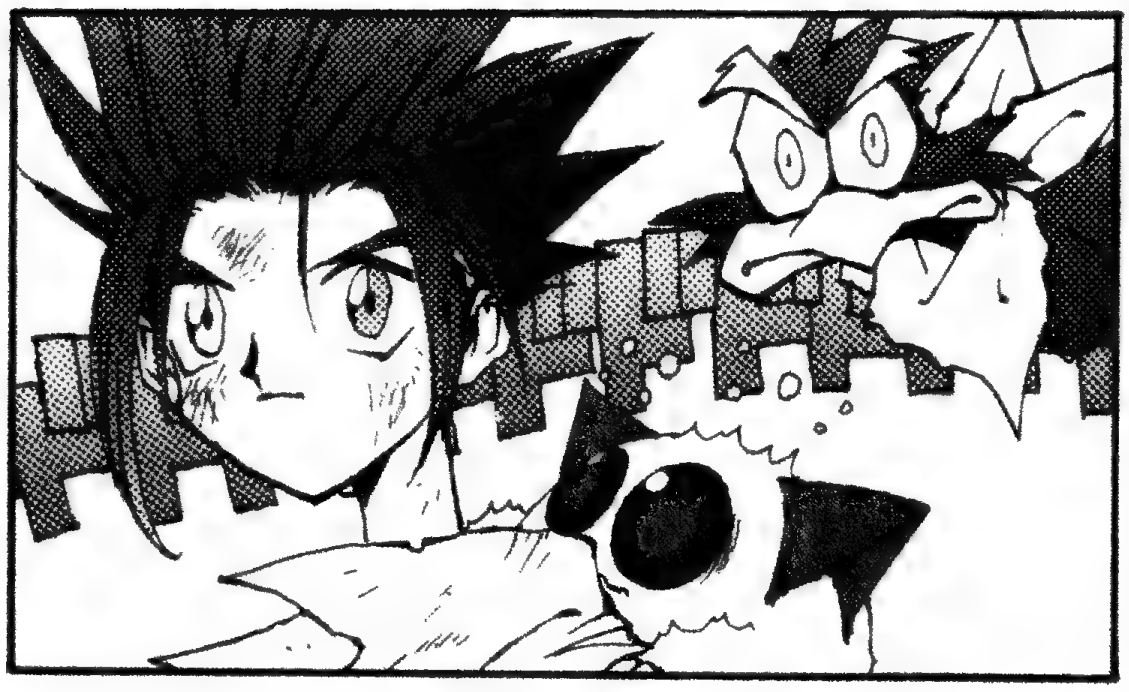
BUSH

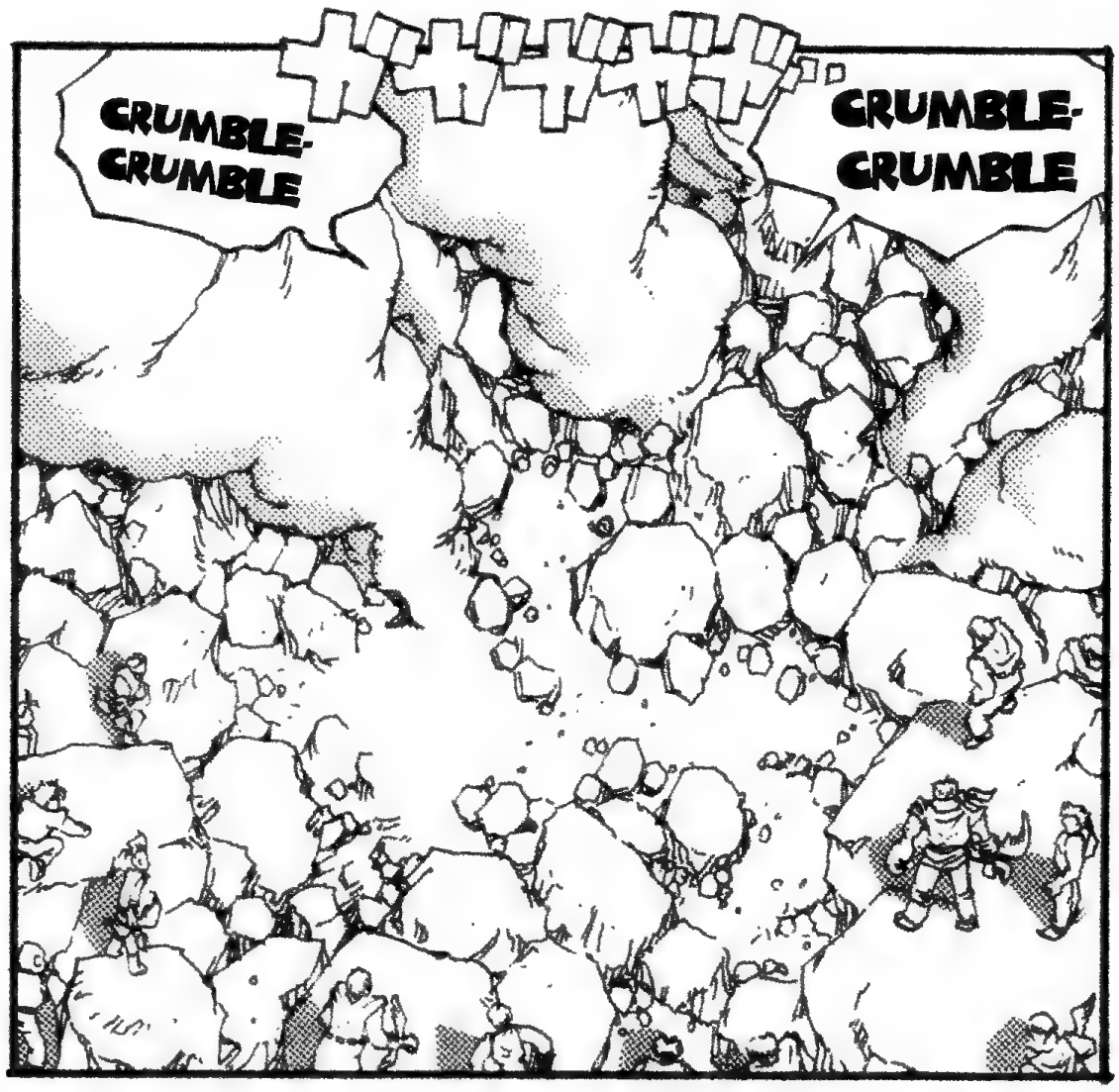
Uhh

Uhh

Uh...

ZZZZZZT

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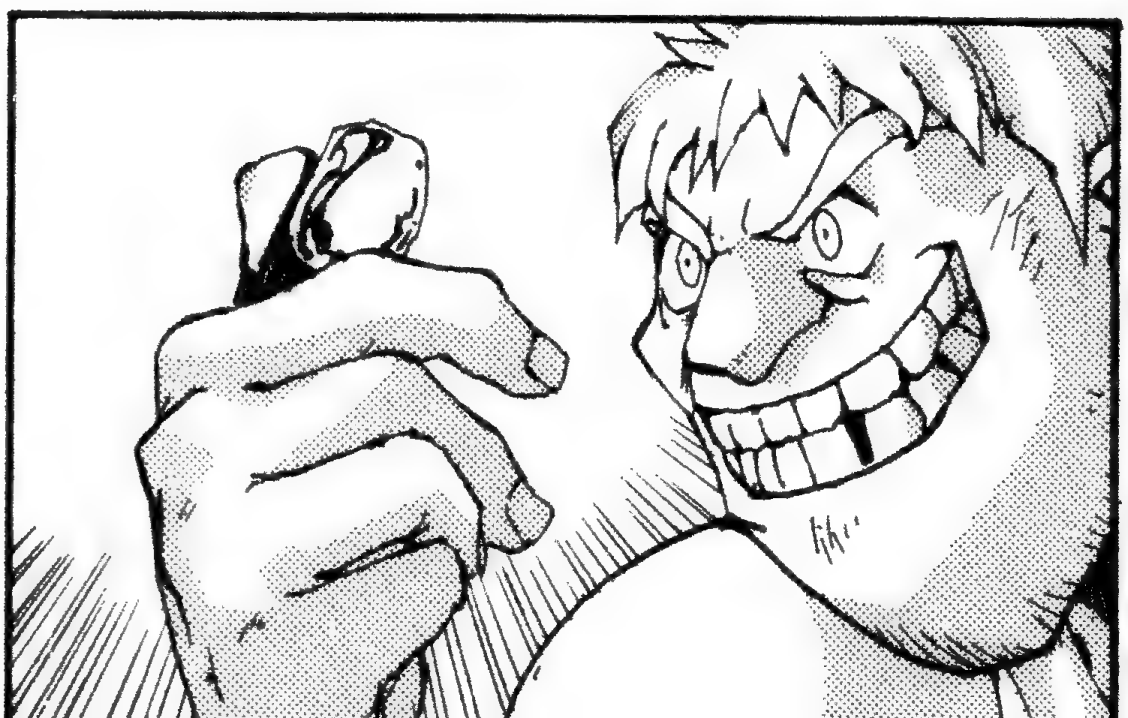
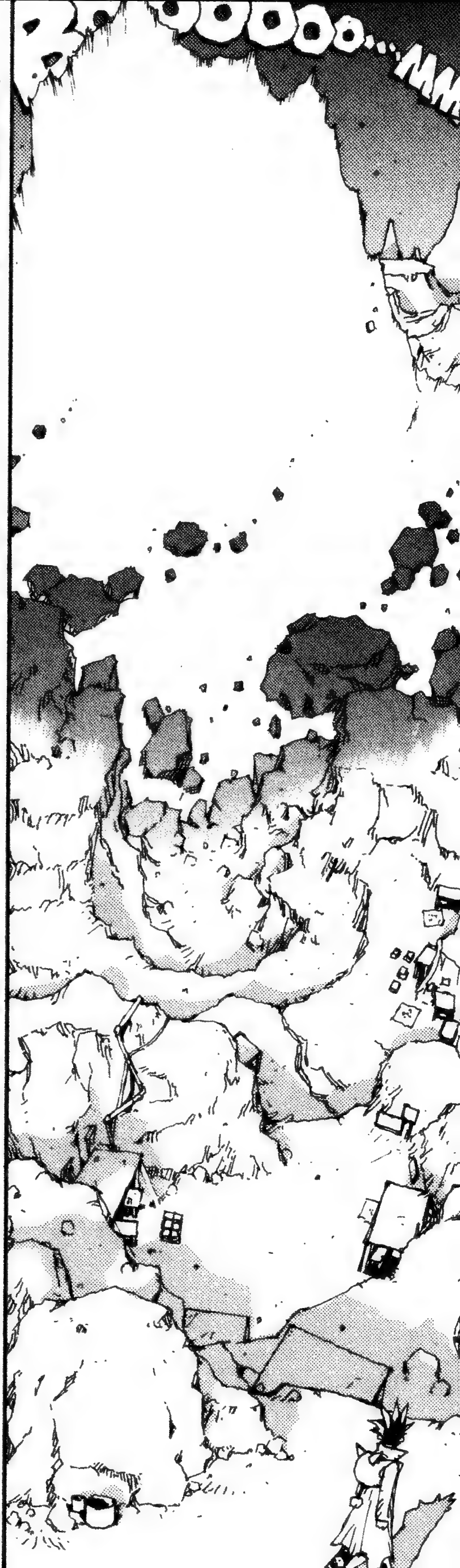




YEAH? STICK AROUND AND YOU MIGHT GET TO JOIN 'EM.

I DON'T LIKE SEEING MY KIN OVERWORKED LIKE THIS.

WHEEEEEEEEEEEW.

...SO PADRE GOBLET FELL IN LOVE WITH HER AND BROUGHT HER BACK TO HIS MANSION.

SO GOBLET'S WOMAN IS PRETTY FINE, EH?

NOW IT'S LIKE SHE'S THE QUEEN OF BAOBAB MANOR OR SOMETHIN'.

SO I'VE HEARD. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, SHE FIXED UP THE PLACE THAT COLLAPSED BY THE ROADSIDE...

HEY JING,
YOU THINK BY "FINE WOMAN"
THEY MEANT IZARRA...? I'VE
GOT A HUNCH.

HEY !!!

HEY, WANNA TRY AND SEE HER FOR OURSELVES?

D'YA MIND? I'M JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART O' MY BOOK HERE!

DO YA? THEN LET'S TEST YOUR THEORY.

CHU!

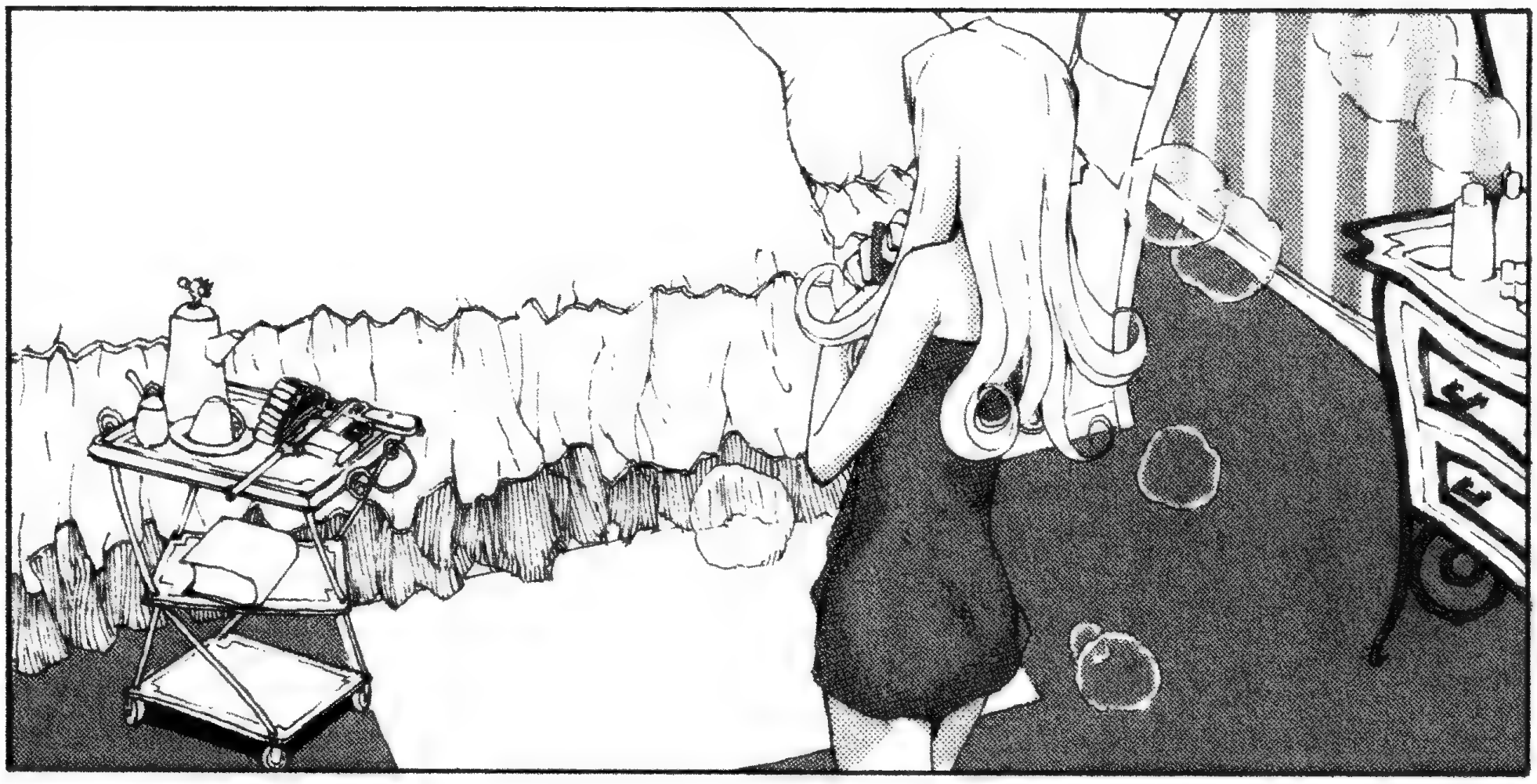
GOBLET

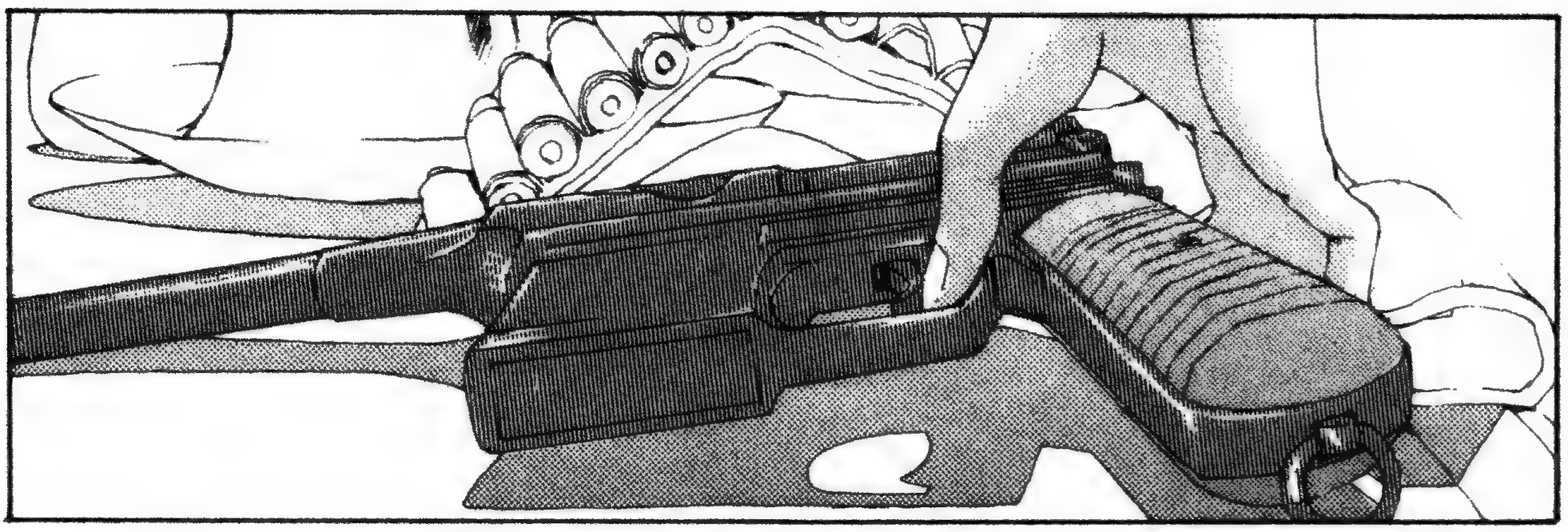
GOBLET'S MANSION: BAOBAB MANOR

GOBLET

GOBLET

SHU





BUT NOW, I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT WITH IT.

LONG TIME AGO, PAPA GAVE ME A GOOD SCOLDING FOR SCRIBBLING ON THIS GUN.

I'M GONNA KILL HIM, PAPA.

FINALLY, THE TIME HAS COME.

VIOLENT YET BEAUTIFUL, LIKE I SAID.

SO...THE GUN'S A KEEPSAKE, EH? IT *DID* SEEM TOO BIG FOR A LADY LIKE HER.

WELL... SHALL WE, KIR?!

KIR...?

ZZHHH--

EZAARAAAHHH--

C'MON, PEEPING TOM--HUNGRY EYES WON'T PAY THE BILLS!

?

DON'T TOUCH THE EXHIBITS

JING...I LIKE HUMANS. ESPECIALLY HUMAN FEMALES, DON'T GET ME WRONG.

BUT SOME OF YOUR HUMAN NONSENSE I'LL NEVER GET. FOR EXAMPLE...WHAT'RE WE DOING IN A ROOM FULL OF BOOKS?!

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THERE'S A *MAP* HERE, COMPLETE WITH WHEREABOUTS OF THE SPOILS IN QUESTION.

PUT A CORK IN IT, WILL YA, KIR?

SPOILS, EH? YOU MEAN THAT UNUSUAL SOLAR ROCK?!?!?!?!?!?!

SORRY...

SHHH! NOT ANOTHER SQUAWK FROM YOU, GOT IT?

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

...THIS SHOULD BE A WALK IN THE PARK!!

IF HE EXPECTS US TO FALL FOR THAT OLD TRICK...

WHISTLE

NOW DONNN'T MOVE. I'M GONNA CALL MY *COMRADES*, ORRIGHT?

COULDN'T AGREE MORE, MATE.

FINE BY US...BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL A MORTICIAN TOO.

UH...

OH, YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE MY COLLEAGUE. HE'S STARVING FOR BLOOD TODAY.

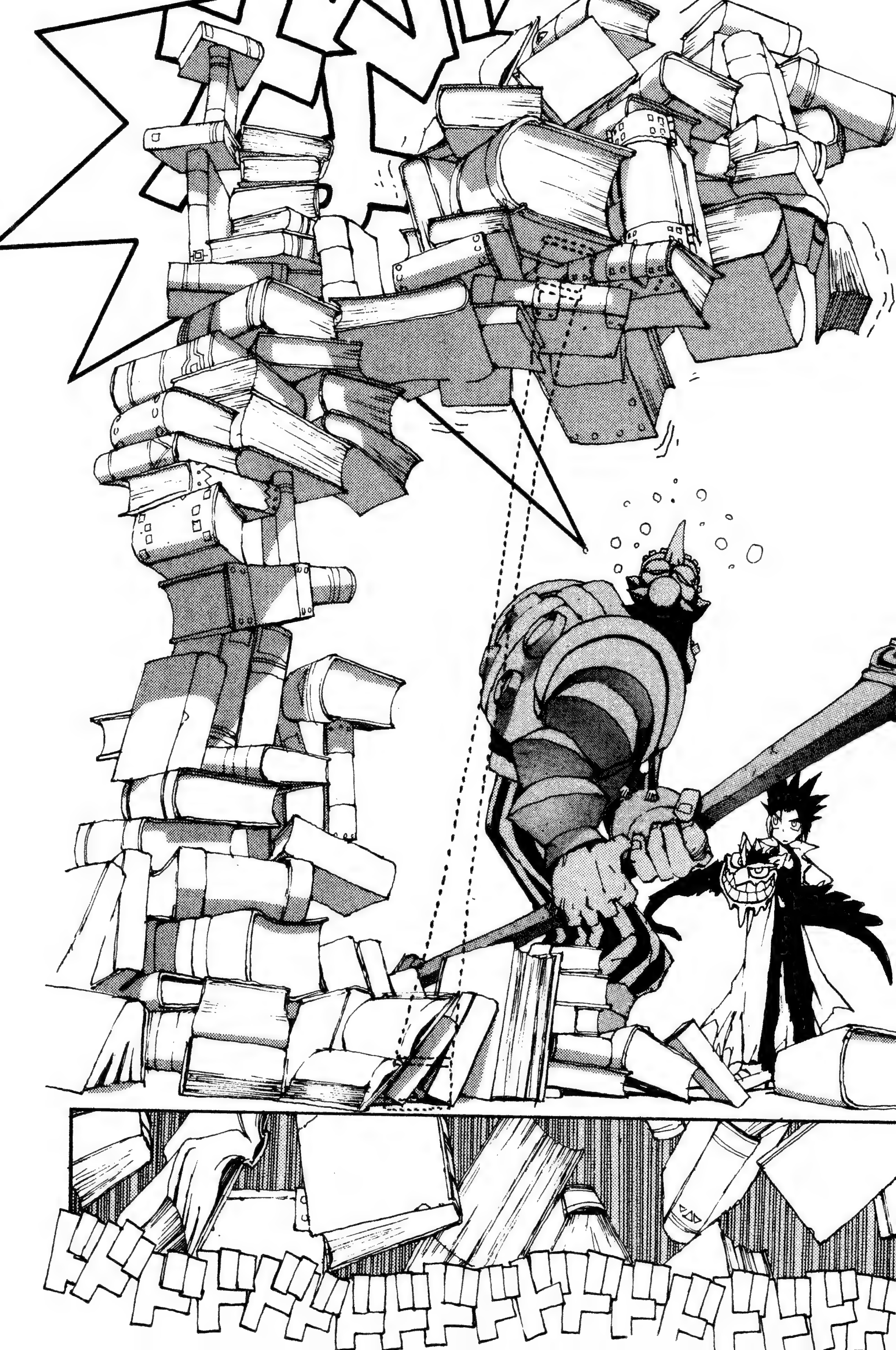
IN FACT, HE'S BEEN PRETTY *EXCITABLE* EVER SINCE HE SAW THAT LUSCIOUS YOUNG *WOMAN* A FEW MINUTES AGO.

HO! HO! HUM

SO I CAN'T GUARANTEE HE WON'T...GO OFF...WITHOUT MY SAY-SO.

UWAA!

YAAAAHHHH!!



UH, JING? YOU KNOW HOW THEY WARN YOU NOT TO MAKE FACES OR IT'LL STAY THAT WAY?

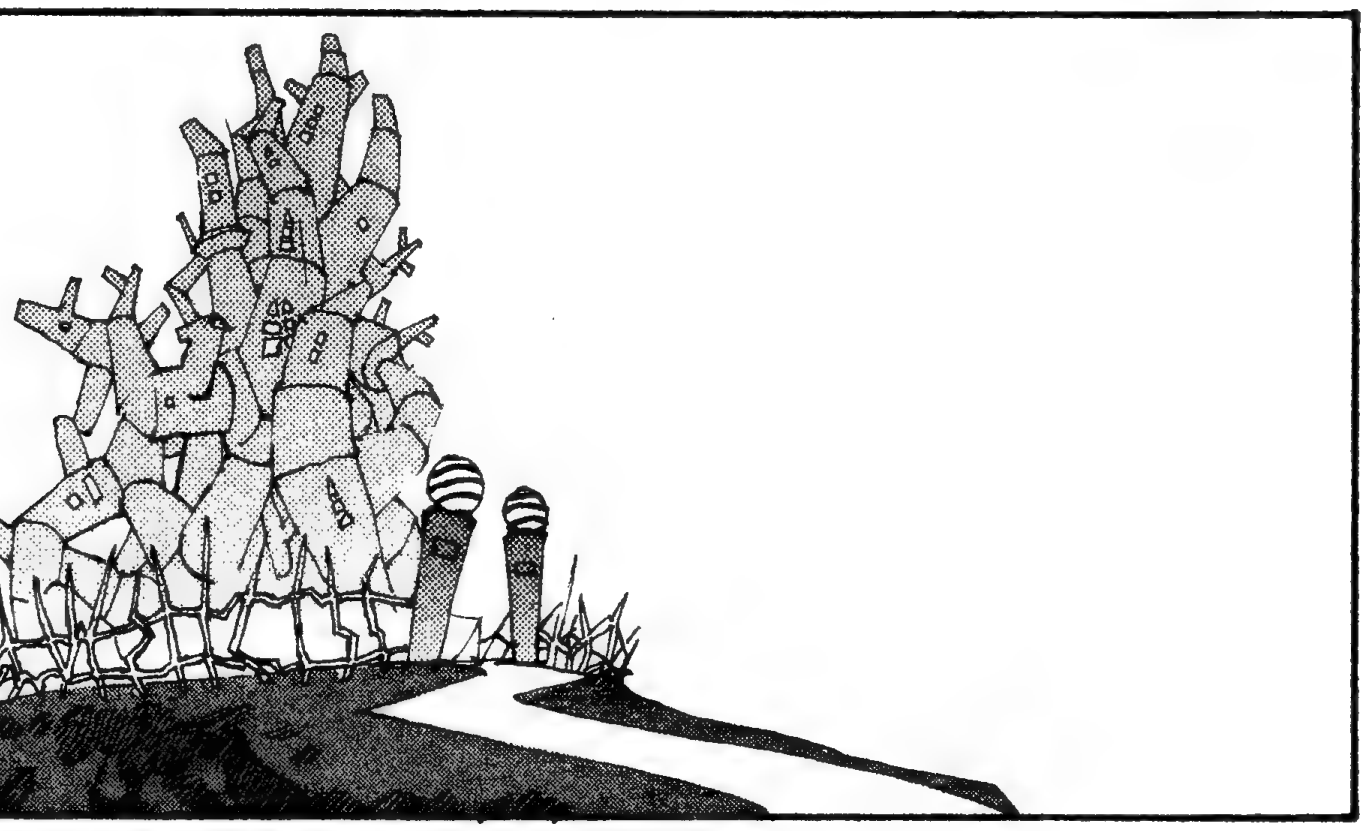
!!

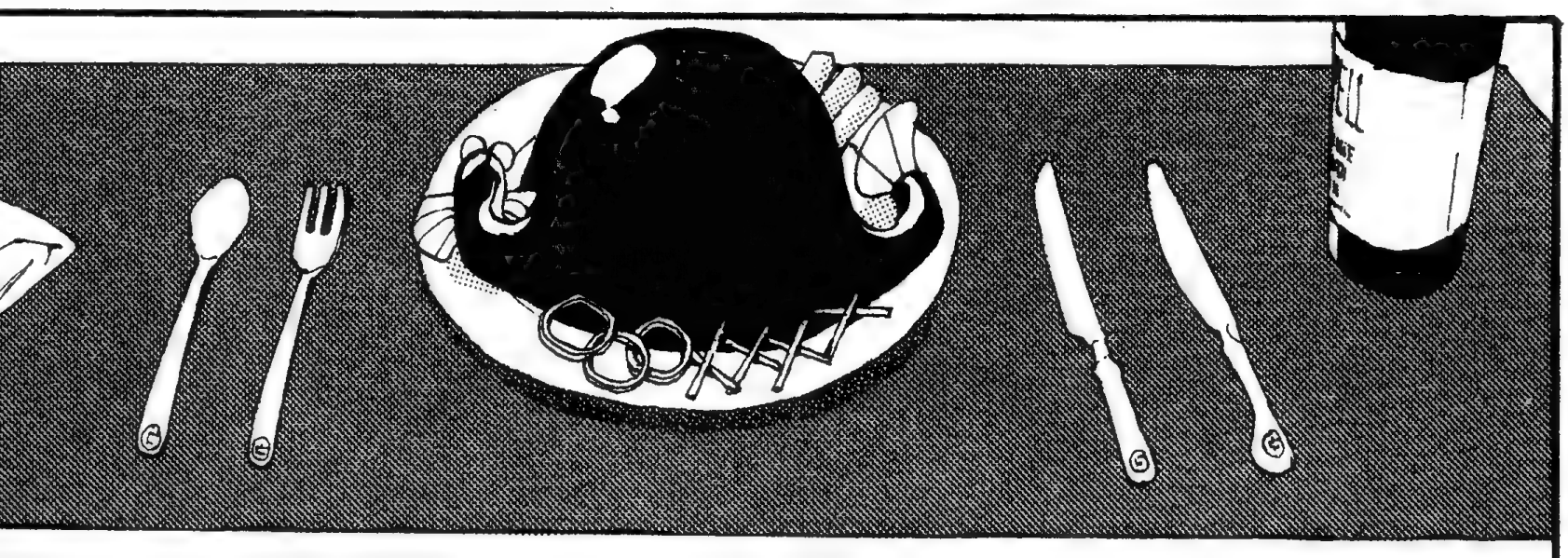
OH, GREAT. WE'VE GOT MORE COMPANY, KIR.

Guess we'll have to start from scratch!!

BUT WHAT ABOUT MY FACE?

START READIN' NOW, CHIEF. THERE WILL BE A QUIZ.





GOLD
9.999

AH, IZARRA... MY WILD ROSE.

SO BEAUTIFUL, BUT COVERED WITH THORNS.

GUBE-

THORNS EVEN *I* CAN'T WITHSTAND.

GUFUFUFUFU...

REALLY, BARON GOBLET! SHALL I REMOVE MY THORNS FOR YOU, THEN?

*NOW'S MY CHANCE!*

WHY IS THIS EEL FULL OF BONES?!!

♪

SENOR GOBLET!

WHAT?! HAVE THEY STOLEN ANYTHING-- ANYTHING?!?!

SPLASH!

THERE'S AN INTRUDER IN THE LIBRARY STACKS!!

ARREST THEM!! AND THEN THROW YOURSELF INTO THE NEAREST CRATER, YOU MISERABLE *WORM!!!*

N... NOTHING... S-SO FAR!!

UH, JING? ASIDE FROM CAUSING A COMMOTION, DID WE ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING BACK THERE? LIKE, Y'KNOW, BRINGING BACK CLUES?

UH--WHAAAT?

OH. NICE MOOO-OOVE.

DON'T WORRY. I THINK WE MIGHT CATCH THE INFORMATION BUG SOMETIME DURING THIS GAME.

NOW, NOW, KIR.

I ACCOMPLISHED A BRAND NEW FACE, AT LEAST.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING WAS STOLEN, BUT APPARENTLY THAT BASTARD GOBLET'S PANICKING LIKE NOBODY'S BIDNESS!!!!! HEY, YOU!! DIDJA HEAR!?!

TEAM WORK

SHUT *UP*, WILL YA? I'M MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THE MASTER CRIMINAL OF THIS BOOK THAN SOME AMATEUR THIEF WHO CAN'T EVEN *STEAL*!!!

AH! WELL, IF YOU'RE *REALLY* INTERESTED IN THAT BOOK, THE CRIMINAL IN QUESTION IS ACTUALLY THE HERO'S *FATHER*...

HEY!

DIDJA HEAR?! A *THIEF* BROKE INTO *BAOBAB MANOR!*

RRRRAAA

I'm gonna steal the sun by dawn.
- The King of Bandits.

OH... A LITTLE BUG TOLD ME.

JING...HOW'D YOU KNOW WHAT WAS IN THAT BOOK WITHOUT EVER READING IT?

QUEEN BEE

WHO IS THAT? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A SMILE BEFORE!

THIS *SPELLING* BEE, TO BE EXACT.

!

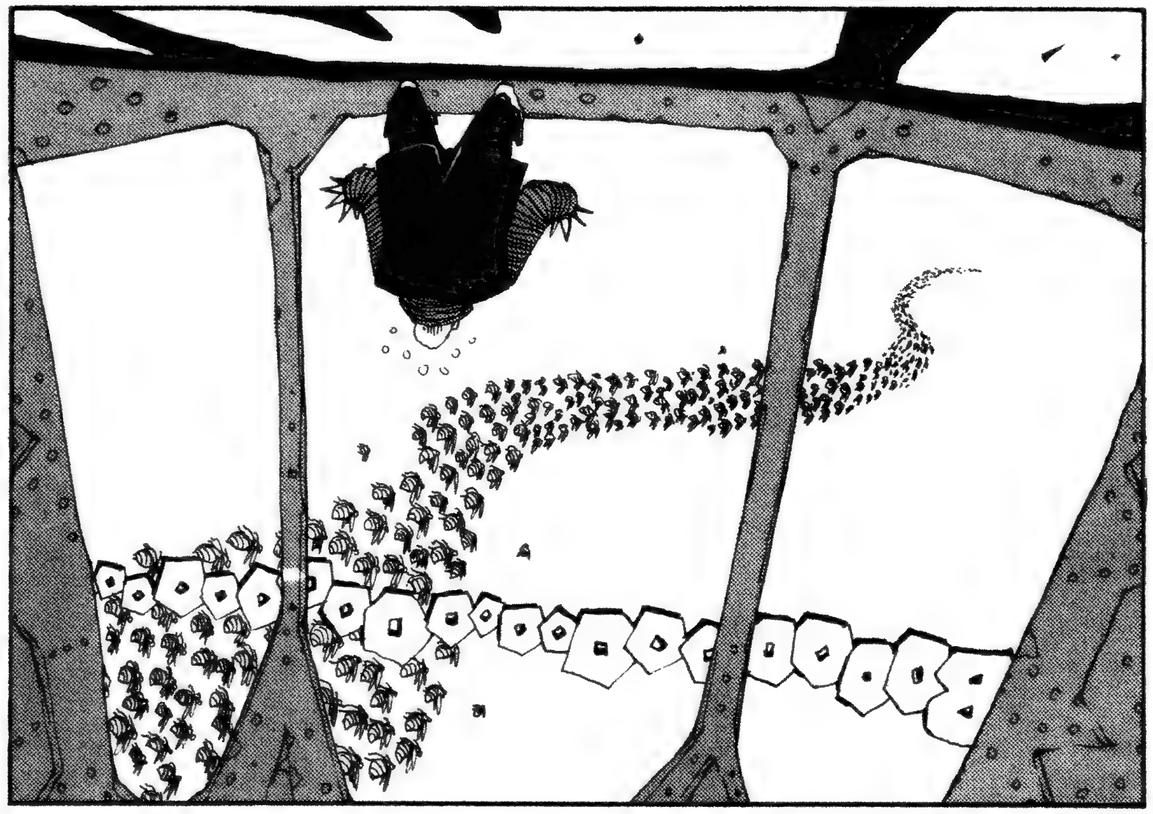
WELL, I GUESS THAT ANSWERS MY QUESTION... WAAAIT A MINUTE.

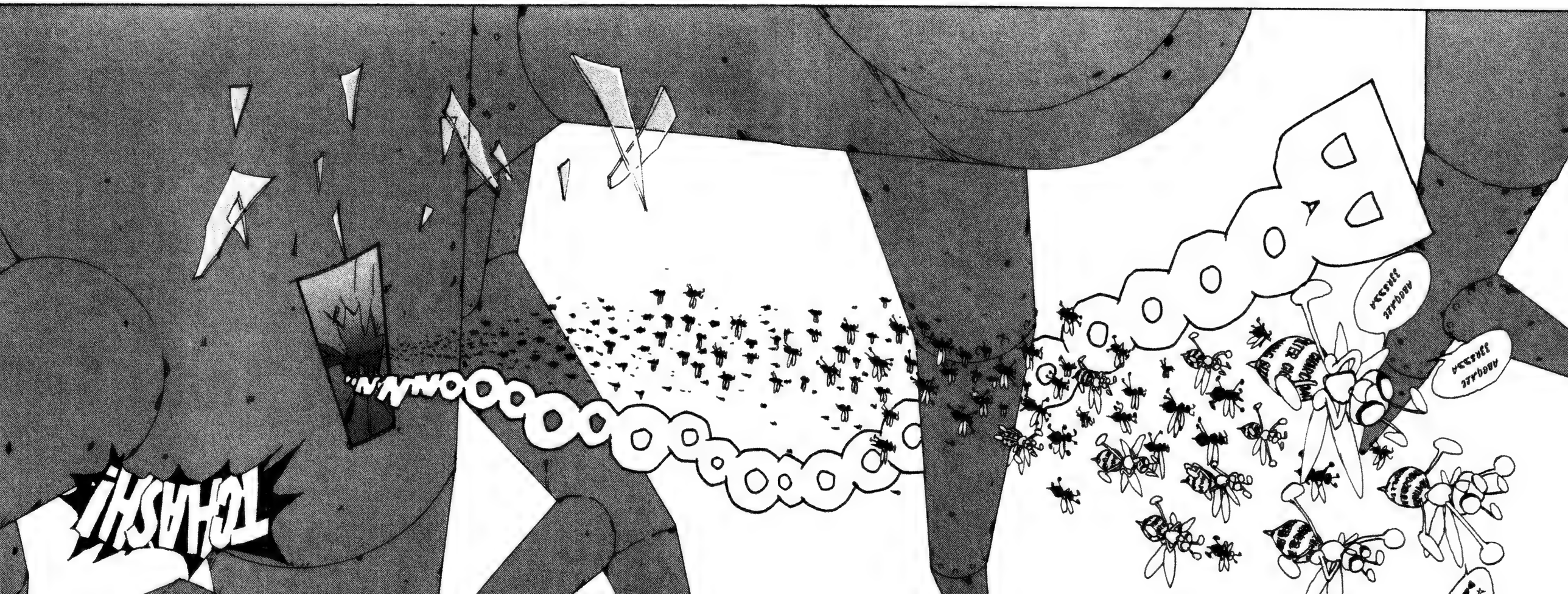
INFORMATION IS HER FAVORITE MEAL... ESPECIALLY THE KIND IN BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS. AND SHE'S ABOUT TO PUT ON A BIT OF *WEIGHT*.

THAT'S RIGHT, KIR. *YOU'RE* GONNA PLANT ONE OF THESE BABIES' EGGS IN THOSE LIBRARY STACKS!!

NNN

BUZZ




TCHAASHI
"OOOO

Afterwards, the queen bee's daughters recounted to Jing the fantastic tale of their library adventure. Its moral?

YOU, TOO, WILL LIVE TO DO WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO DO!

SMOOCH

BEAUTY QUEEN

You never can

tell with bees.

These could be the

wrong sort of bees.

# 11th SHOT - COUNTRY OF TEARS

"GONNA STEAL THE SUN," IS HE?

I WON'T ALLOW EVEN ONE PIECE OF OUR COCKROACHES' *DUNG* TO BE TAKEN BY THAT KNOW-IT-ALL KNAVE!!!!!!

HERE, HERE! WELL SPOKEN, LOJO.

MY PAPA SAYS HE'S GONNA GET THE SOLAR ROCK, EVEN IF IT'S OVER HIS DEAD BODY.

BAA...

THE RAM WITH THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

A SEEDLING THAT SPAWNED A HUNDRED MILLION BLOSSOMS. ♡

ROSE

日本

A DRIED CUTTLEFISH THAT CURES LARYNGITIS IN ONE BITE!!

EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED, I GOT!!!!!

...IS THE SOLAR ROCK!

BUT, MY GREATEST, FINAL DESIRE...

...SO ONCE WE SNEAK UP BESIDE THAT PILFERING PUNK...WE'LL...

IT'S ELUDED ME FOR COUNT-LESS DECADES... THE HARDEST NUT TO CRACK...

ポーン

GR R R...

KUUUUUH!

fluttering

KING OF BANDITS-- HAH!!!

I'm gonna steal the sun by dawn.

- The King of Bandits

THAT CHILD FUGITIVE AGAIN... HE KICKED UP SUCH A FUSS WHEN I LEFT HIM SPLASHING IN THAT MAGMA BATH...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY COUN-TRIES YOU'VE WORMED YOUR WAY INTO, KID...

...BUT I WON'T LET HIM STAND IN THE WAY OF MY *REVENGE.*

CRUMPLE

...BUT I'VE PASSED THROUGH COUNTLESS COUNTRIES OF *TEARS.*

たたたた

SCREECH!

THE MOST PRECIOUS THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, KIR!!

SO NOW HE'S A PHILOSOPHER?

THIS IS THE PLACE.

UH, JING...THERE'S NOTHING HERE!!

ALL RIGHT! HERE WE ARE... THIS IS IT.

HUH?

ネズミ

HO! I'M PLACING YOU UNDER CITIZEN'S ARREST FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, BOY! PUTTING SUCH A BIG HOLE IN THE SURFACE OF OUR PRECIOUS *EARTH.*

JARI

HARR-UMPH.

MUTTER ANY INSULTS YOU WANT, AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING TO REPEAT THEM BEFORE YOUR MOTHER *EARTH!!*

THEN THEY SHOULD TAKE *YOU* AWAY FOR AIR POLLUTION WITH YOUR STINKY *ALCOHOL BREATH.*

GOBLET!!!

OH... IZARRA!, PLAY-ACTING IN A COWBOY MOVIE, ARE WE? HUH...?

SEÑOR GOBLET...I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU MY FULL NAME.

I AM IZARRA TUMBLER!!!

OH...

YOU REMEMBER HIM, DON'T YOU? THE OLD BUSINESS RIVAL YOU HAD KILLED!!

THE DAUGHTER OF CHARTREUSE TUMBLER.

THEN, THAT WAS YOU..

SEE WHAT A WILD ROSE I AM?!! NOW FEEL MY THORNS!!

OWWF!

A MAN LIKE THIS...

J...JING! Y...YOU...

...I DON'T CARE IF HE DIES. BUT I CAN'T LET THE PORVORA DIE.

I NEVER GOT A FORMAL REQUEST FROM ITS MOTHER AND FATHER...

...BUT I'M GONNA PROTECT THIS CHILD. I'M GONNA MAKE SURE IT GETS THE NICE, LONG LIFE...

...THEY WANTED IT TO HAVE!!

JING!!

JUUUUUST KIDDING!!

DA DA DA DA DA DAH--

AS IF JING WOULD TAKE SOME PETTY BULLET FROM AN OLD-FASHIONED GUN!! HE COULD'VE SEEN THAT SUCKER COMING FROM A MILE AWAY!!

AWRIGHT, JING, LET'S FINISH THIS QUICKLY!! IF YOU DON'T SHOOT HIM, I WILL!

HAAH! AAAAH-HHHH--!!

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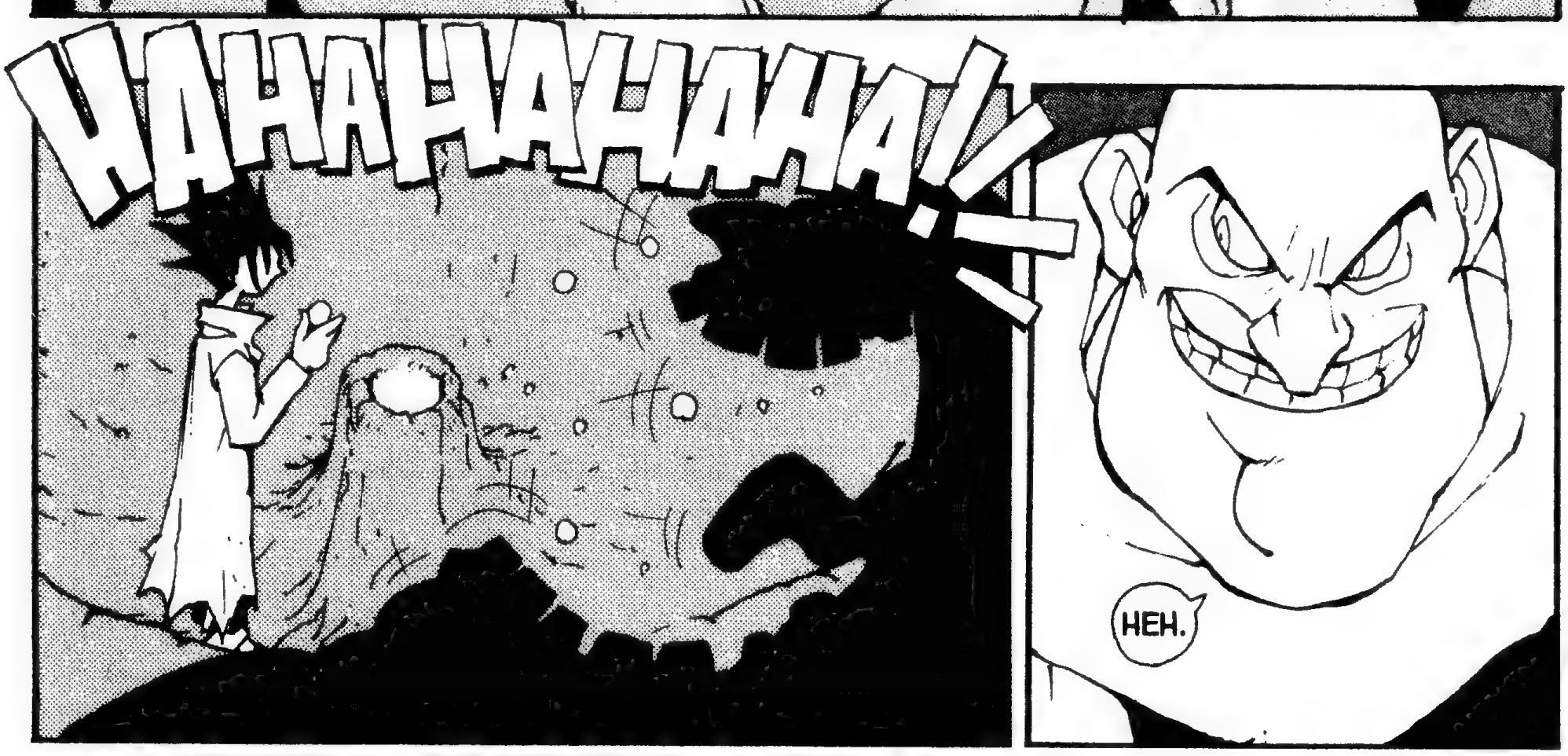

HEH.

HAHAHA!

HAHAHA!

UH, JING...? YOU SURE THAT STONE'S FOR REAL?

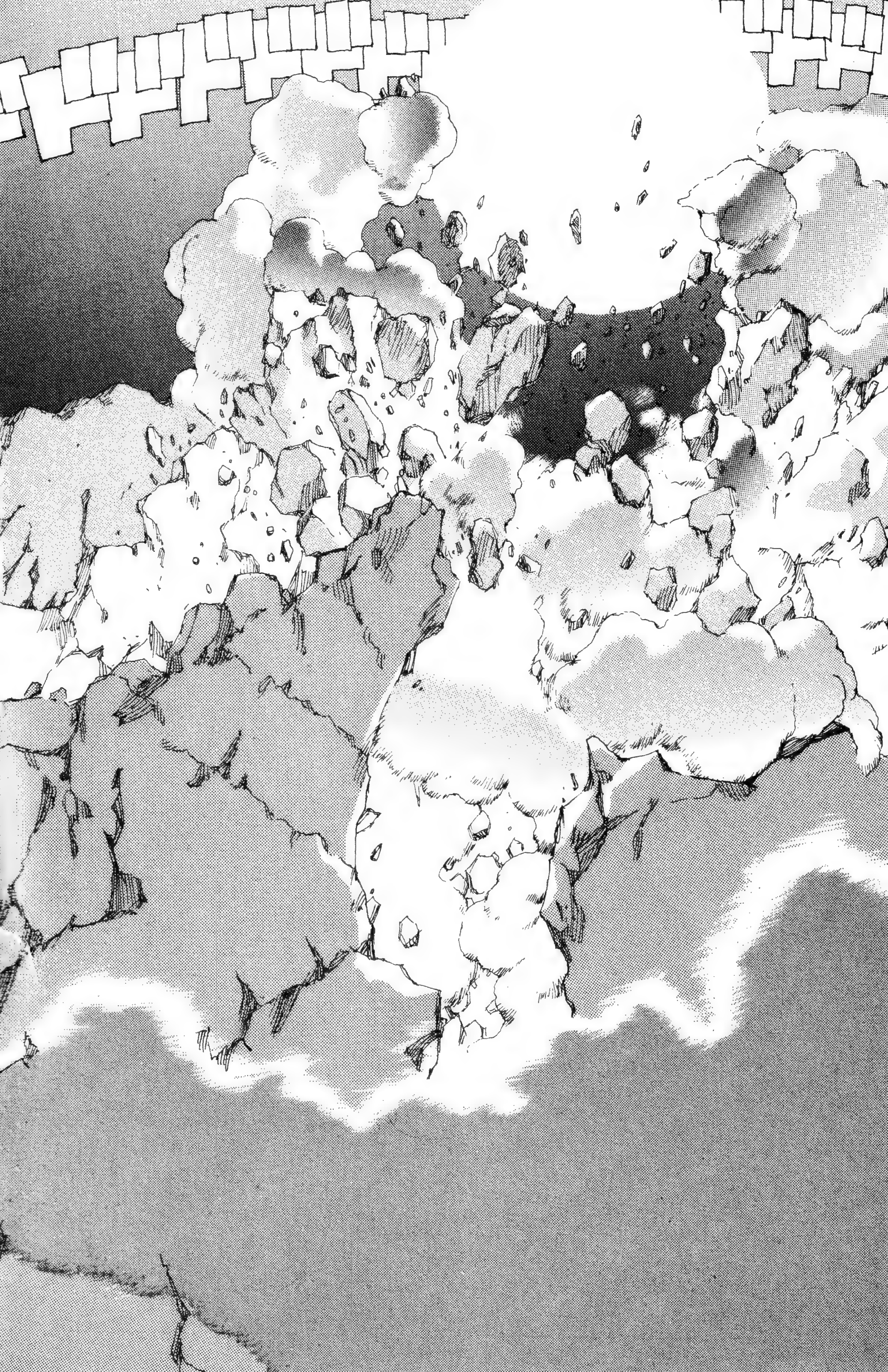
THAT IS THE WHOLE THING... RIGHT? RIGHT?

HAHAHAHAHA!

I DON'T CARE, I DON'T CARE! TAKE THAT PUNY THING, IF YOU LIKE!

I... THINK I AM STUCK.

VERY WELL, THEN... LET'S JUST LEAVE THIS AS A LESSON FOR A BAD, BAD CHILD...



OH YES, *THAT.* THIS *PUNY* SOLAR ROCK, AS YOU CALL IT, WAS MERELY A SWITCH TO AWAKEN THE *GIANT.*

TH... THAT...

WOW

ミシキッ!!

ドカ

HEY, YOU WANNA TRY ME? LITTLE GAME OF PAPER, SCISSORS, *ROCK*...TO THE *DEATH*?

WOOO

AAAAAAAARGHHH!!!

HO!

HO!

HUM

AAHHH...

キリキリ…

ONE MORE SHOT PLEASE, KIR!!

AOOO

ZAAAA...

EEK.

STAY BACK.

DA?

GYAFUN!!

HUH?

IDIOT

IDIOT.

PEH. IDIOT.

WH... WHAT THE...?

CHU CHU CHU

UGH... STOP IT!!

JING?

ぶーら ぶーら

?!

?

IZARRA... WILL YOU BE HIS MOMMY?

BUT... I...

I KNOW. BUT SOME-ONE'S GOTTA DO IT.

YOU UNDERSTAND, DONTCHA?

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM!! I'M COUNTIN' ON YOU!

OH...

JING!!!

WHY...?
I SHOULDN'T
BE SAD,
BUT...

THIS IS...
THE FIRST
TIME...I'VE
EVER...*CRIED*
LIKE THIS.

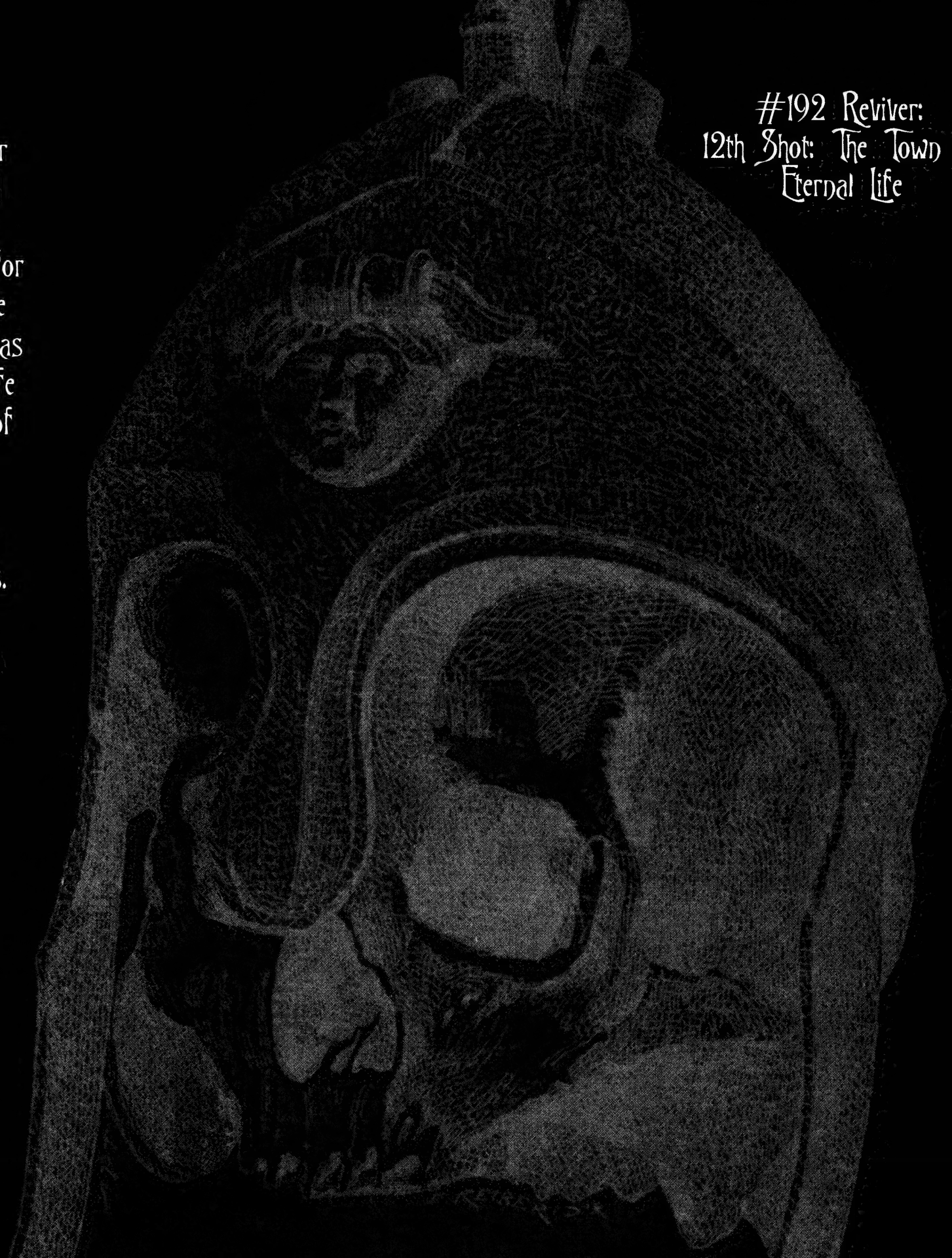
I WON'T
FORGET
THIS. I'M
NOT GOING
TO FORGET...
*YOU*, JING.

THE LAND OF TEARS IS A STRANGE COUNTRY INDEED... ISN'T IT, IZARRA?

# #192 Reviver: 12th Shot: The Town of Eternal Life

Known as the everlasting ancient city, Reviver is thought to have originated as an artificial island built on the ocean for the Galabed Committee as a factory site for its famous perpetual motion machines. Before long, the machines' extremely delicate power was found to aid in the perpetuation of human life itself, finally casting light onto the mystery of eternal youth...mankind's biggest dream.

However, at the heart of this process were secrets not to be removed from the premises. This spawned the ironic custom of putting any who attempted to leave this island of eternal life...to death.



So the city's eternal life could exist only in a vacuum.

Accordingly, since all those who attempted to leave the island were killed, there is to this day no way to ascertain its whereabouts...presuming humanity should be allowed that knowledge at all.

(From Chapter 1 of All Walking Tour of Cities You'll Never See)

AWA-ZAWA

Congratulations to Prince Belzebuth, who has happily reached his third birthday in good health! And now, the birthday festivities approach their climax!!

WAAAAAAAAAA

Following in the grand tradition of this fair City of Corpse, the King is at this moment handing down the rosary beads, signifying that his legitimate heir has come of age.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WAAAAAAA

12th SHOT - THE TOWN OF ETERNAL LIFE

Shall we all share in this happiness, my countrymen?! Long live Prince Belzebuth!!!

♩ IT'S TIME TO RIP YOUR CLOTHING
IT'S TIME TO FLAY YOUR SKIN ♪
IT'S TIME TO LET THE GHOULS OUT IN THE CITY OF CORPSE AGAIN!
IT'S TIME TO PUT THE SLIME ON
IT'S TIME TO EMBRACE SIN
IT'S TIME TO GET THINGS MOVING IN THE CITY OF CORPSE AGAIN!
♫ THE NORTH WIND BLOWS ITS DEATH HORN
TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH'S HEAD BALL

♫ THE DEEP BLACK GALLOWS HOWL WITH GLEE
AND A FOUL STENCH FILLES THE HALLS
AND NOW OUR BONES START PROWLING
WHY DON'T THE WOLVES START HOWLING
IT'S TIME WE ALL START GROWLING
ON THIS MOST DESPICABLE, UNFORGIVEABLE, INCORRIGIBLE, SUPERNATURAL!
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE DEATH'S HEAD BALL!
♪

END

WAAA

The City of Corpse itself has been selected as his young majesty's cake! This window affords the prince a spectacular view of the three candletowers he will soon blow out.

GOOOOOOOOOOO.

And here it comes--the world-famous "Horn of the Wintry Wind"-- a mystical mechanism...

...created to amplify human breath!!

Happy Birthday

GASHA

Thanks to this little contraption, our young prince should be able to extinguish all of the flames, which represent the flames of hell.

YAY!

WOO HOO!

HIP HIP HOORAY!

WAAAAAAAAA

FUU!

SHOO!

SHOO!!

GACHON GACHON

RUSTLE

Although some expected a disturbance on this occasion, as the self-professed "King of Bandits" had announced an intention to steal the rosary beads at the ceremony, they appear for now to be safe and sound...

OH, CRUMBS.

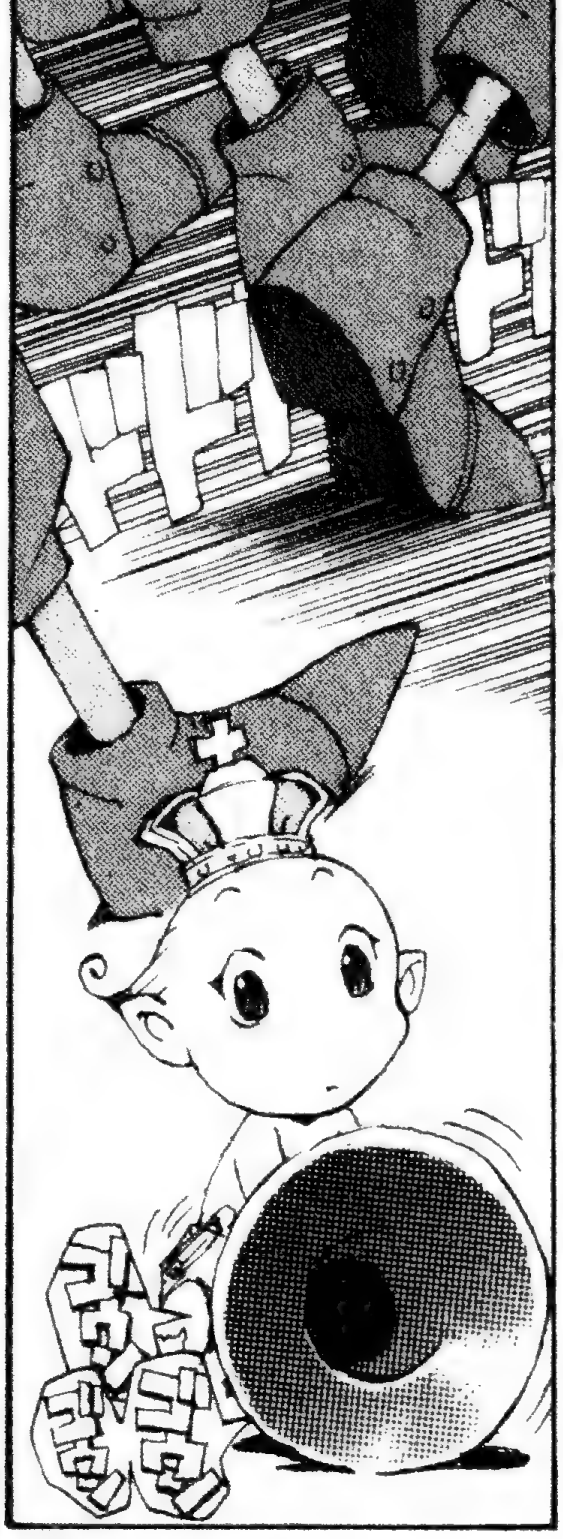
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

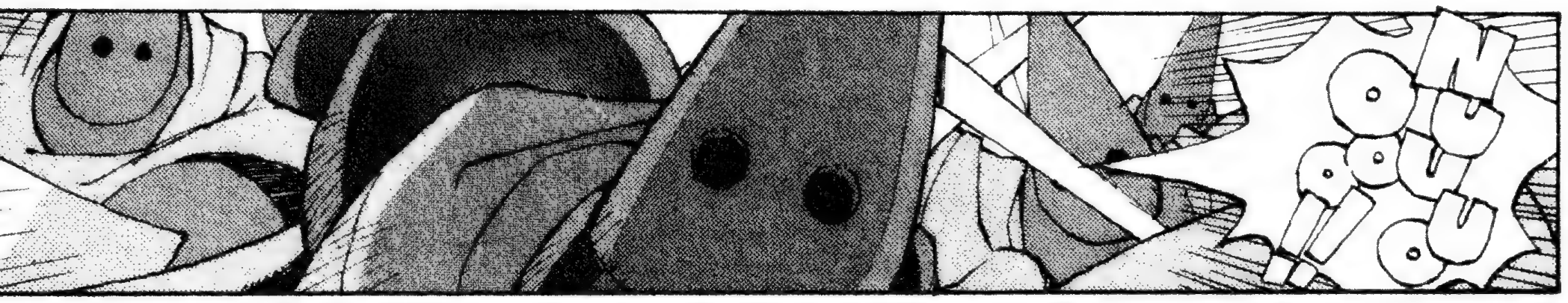
An intruder! An intruder has entered the building!!

Could this be the famed King of Bandits?! Wh-why...h-he's nothing but a chiiiiiiddd!!!!

HA HA

ARREST HIM!

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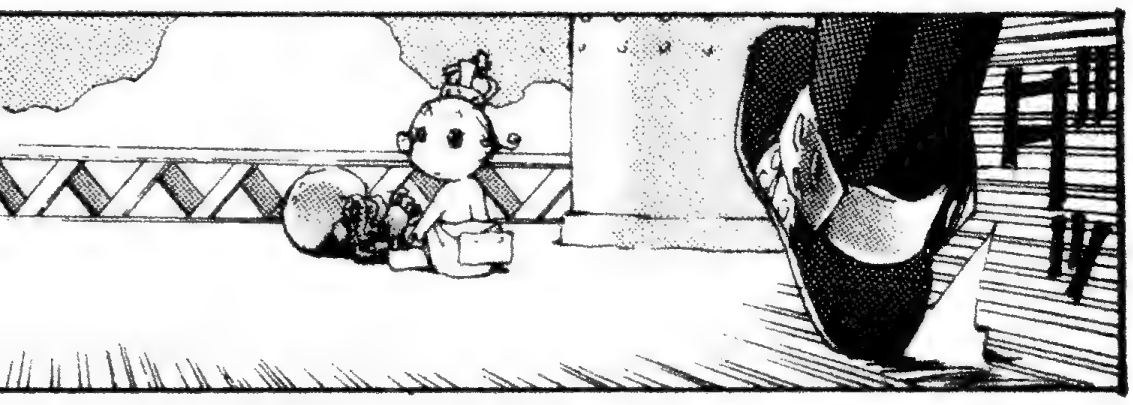

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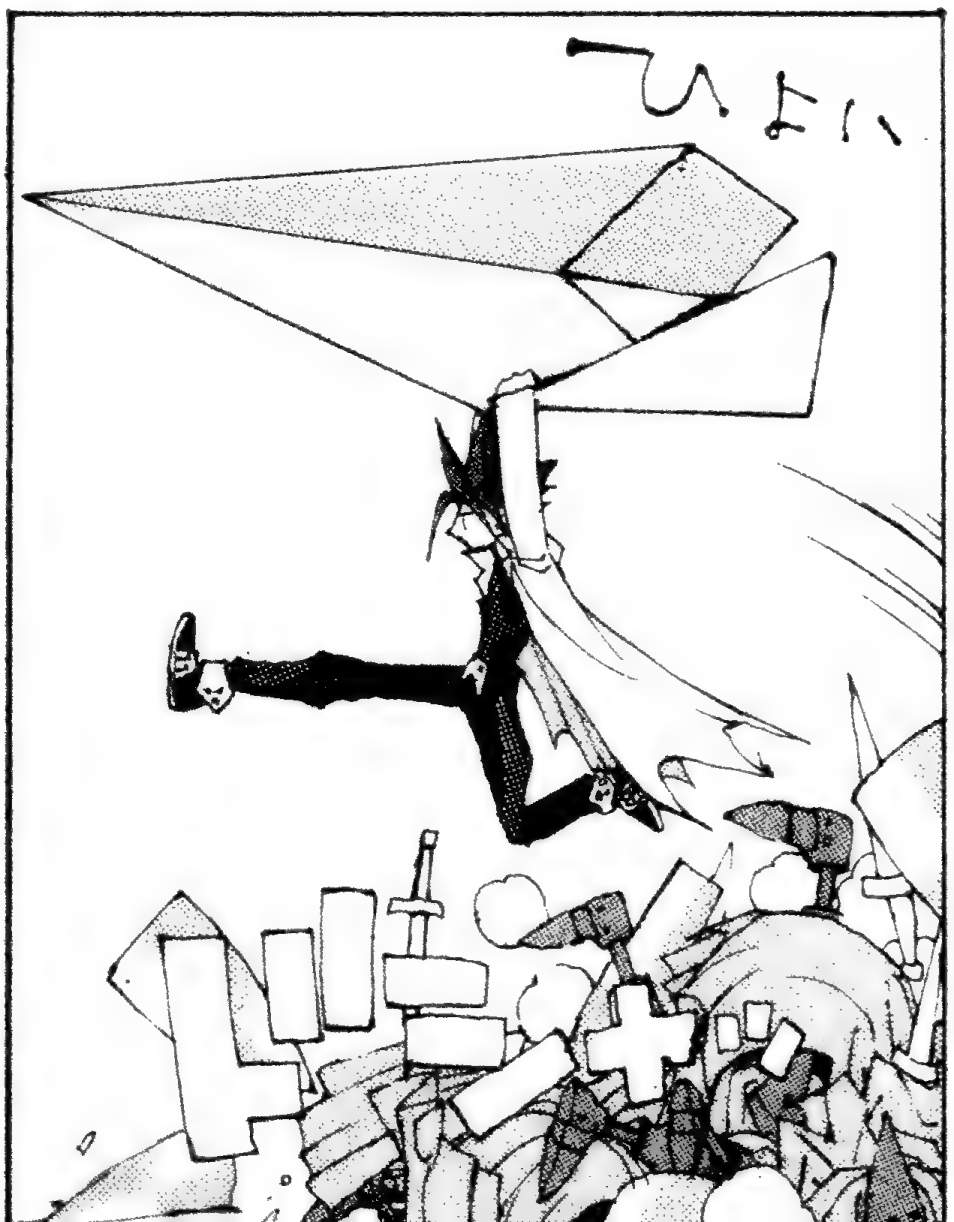
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FOO--

HOTTT...

H-H-HOT!!

GOOOOO

SQUIRT

BINGO!!!

OH... WHOOPS.

PACHI PACHI.. PAchi..

FUHGOOM

W-WHAT'D I TELL YA-- IT'S DESCENDINNNG!! IT'S DESCENDIIINNNNGG!!

JING? Y'KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? WE GOTTA LIVE FASTER THAN EVER NOW, BEFORE HEAVEN DESCENDS ON US FOR OUR MISDEEDS.

'LEAST WE GOT THESE STYLISH ROSARY BEADS

SAY, YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE USEFUL SORTS...HOW ABOUT IT? I'VE GOT A PROFITABLE PROPOSITION FOR YOU...

WELL, *THIS* ONE ISN'T OF MUCH USE AT THE MOMENT, BUT...*I'M* LISTENING.

WHOOPS! SORRY TO SCARE YA. MY NAME'S VERMOUTH.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!!

?

OOPS... I GUESS *YOU* CAN'T READ THAT LANGUAGE YET, *CAN* YOU?

HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS.

*AN IDLING ARTHUR OF BYGONE DAYS,*
*AWAITING THE KEY TO UNLOCK HIS HAZE.*

*AN ACROBATIC SNAKE IN A MUSTY OLD TOMB;*
*SCRUTINIZE IT QUICK OR FACE CERTAIN DOOM.*

*WITHIN SLEEPING FOREST AN OLD HAG LIES IN WAIT;*
*STEAL A KISS FROM HER LIPS TO SET YOUR PATH STRAIGHT.*

BAA...

BAA...

...FOR THE FINAL CROSSING OF YOUR UNENDING TRAIL, AN OFFERING OF SLUMBER WILL HELP YOU SET SAIL...

WELL, THAT *ONE* PRECIOUS LIFE OF YOURS COULD TURN INTO A *HUNDRED*, OR EVEN *TWO* HUNDRED!

THAT IS, IF YOU SOLVE THE RIDDLE...

HEY, WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT UNENDING TRAILS!! I'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE HERE!!

NO, KIR.

SMILE DANDELION

THAT'S THE STUPIDEST...

WAIT... ARE YOU SAYING...WE COULD LIVE FOREVER?

SO, HOW ABOUT IT? THE SECRET TO ETERNAL LIFE...PRETTY GOOD DEAL, EH? THE FORTUNE COULD BE ALLLL YOURS!

IT'S NOT STUPID...IT'S LEGEND. ANCIENT FOLKLORE TELLS US THAT THE SECRET OF ETERNAL YOUTH WAS RESEARCHED LONG AGO IN A CITY NEAR HERE CALLED REVIVER.

BUT IF THAT FOLKLORE WERE REGARDED AS TRUTH...

WHERE DID YOU OBTAIN THIS TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE STORY, VERMOUTH?

Fu..

AND WHY ARE YOU OFFER-ING US THE CHANCE, IF YOU COULD JUST GET IT YOURSELF?

YEAH, RIGHT. WE'RE NOT FALLING FOR YOUR STUPID STORY.

ARE WE, KIR?!

W-WELL...I DON'T THINK IT'D BE ANY SORT OF JOUR-NEY FOR A FRAIL MAIDEN LIKE MYSELF! TH-THE CARGO WOULD BE TOO HEAVY, FOR ONE THING...

VERMOUTH...MY LOVE EVERLASTING...NOW AND FOREVER... ETERNALLY YOURS...AHHH.

SO WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?!!!!

LET'S GO, JING!!!!

ｽﾀｽﾀ...

HEE HEE HEE...

MMM.

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

DERE'S SOMFING FUNNY BOUT DIS FRUIT.

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

MOGU..

*I THOUGHT THAT GIRL WAS GOING TO REVIVER... BUT I'LL EAT MY HAT BEFORE HANDING THE GREATEST TREASURE OF MANKIND TO THAT SNIVELING BRAT...*

FOOL...YOU EAT EVERY-THING YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON!

COME, CHINA LILET!!

I..I FINK IT'S STUCK IN ME FROAT..

I THINK THE BEGINNING OF THAT POEM HAS SOME CONNEC-TION TO THIS PLACE...

AH, AN ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD...

A SITE WHERE FOOLISH HUMANS ONCE COMPETED FOR FOOLISH VANITY.

YEAH... HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REMOVE EXCALIBUR FROM WHERE IT STOOD, RIGHT?

YEAH, THAT MENTION OF "ARTHUR" IN THE RIDDLE COULD BE A REFERENCE TO THE LEGENDARY KING ARTHUR'S SWORD, EH?

SO WHICH ONE IS IT?!

OUT, OUT, YOU WEEDS WHO CAN'T DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HIGH-MINDED SEARCH AND ORDINARY THEFT.

ONLY THE HOLY CITY OF *REVIVER* COULD HAVE TURNED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "AQUA VITAE," THAT QUINTESSENTIAL ALCHEMY OF THE SOUL, INTO A SIMPLE MEANS FOR UGLY BUSINESS PRINCIPLES.

JING... WHAT'S THAT GUY TALKING ABOUT?

I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL US THAT HE WENT TO A VERY GOOD *GRAMMAR* SCHOOL.

HAH!

VERY WELL... SMALLER WORDS. YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY THE TRUE SWORD, BECAUSE YOUR EYES ARE BLURRED BY GREED.

C... C'MON! US TOO! HURRY, HURRY!!

COME, CHINA LILET... *WE'LL* FIND IT!

.....

.....

MY, MY--!

SUCH REFINED BRILLIANCE... THIS IS IT. I'D KNOW IT BLINDFOLDED.

FRANKEN STEIN 655521

YUGU

PULL IT OUT, CHINA LILET. PULL IT!!

HEY!!
Y...YOU GOT IT,
JING!

ううおおお

IS *THIS* WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

HEH
HEH HEH...

I SEE *YOU'VE* CHOSEN WELL! A SWORD SO SHABBY IT COULDN'T SLICE A MARSHMALLOW WOULD BE *PERFECT* FOR *YOUR* LOT... HEH, HEH...

OH.

NU

WHA--

WHAT IS
THIS?!?!

GACHON..

GACHON..

CH-CHINA LILET!!!!

UOOHH!

YAK!

AWW..DA PIT CAME OUT!

GACHON..
GACHON..

WAH
WAHWAH--!

HERE I
COME!!

HEY, JING...
YOU SURE YOU WANNA
STAY INVOLVED IN
ALL THIS?

GEE!

GAN

OH.

SHUUU...

CLICK!

LOOK AT THIS, KIR.

WAIT A SEC... IT STOPPED! HOW...?

THIS NICKED EDGE WAS CREATED FOR A REASON.

SEE THESE MARKS? THE SWORD WAS *FILED.*

EH?

MEANING... THIS SWORD IS ACTUALLY THE "KEY" TO OUR JOURNEY.

OH...
I SEE.

THE MONSTER'S EYEBALL IS A KEYHOLE...*AND* A POWER SWITCH!

y...ou...aaare ...corr...ect.

!!

REMEMBER THE FIRST LINE? ARTHUR IS IDLING, UNLOCKING A HAZE? DOES THAT SOUND LIKE A FANCY SWORD TO YOU?

?

?

GU!!..

EEEK!

GACHON..

GACHON..

GACHON..

W...WHERE'S IT T-TAKING US?

GACHON

WHO CARES!
NO MATTER WHERE
WE'RE GOING, IT'S BOUND
TO BE SOMEPLACE
EXCITING!!!

A WHITE MOON SHINES DOWN ON THE FOREST...

HOOT...

HOOT...

13th SHOT - THE LIPS OF AN OLD WOMAN

...A WHISPER IS HEARD.

...THEN, FROM THE BRANCHES...

AMONG THE SHADOWS, IN A VILLAGE OF LEAVES...

MY FUTURE LOVE AWAITS

GACHON...

GACHON...

GACHON...

...OH.

HECK, WE'VE PASSED THROUGH SO MANY EXCITING PLACES ALREADY, JING...

GACHON

GACHON

GACHON

HEY JING-- I THINK I SEE SOMETHING. JING!!

GACHON...

SO, WHERE IS THIS BUCKET OF BOLTS TAKING US AGAIN?

TRACE CHURCH
SHE FAILED TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES

GACHON!

I WONDER IF THIS PLACE...HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH...THE SECOND... RIDDLE.

GACHON..

GACHON..

GACHON..

GIGI..

!!!

Y'KNOW, THAT DOCUMENT OF VERMOUTH'S COULD HAVE BEEN AN INVITATION FROM THE GODS OF DEATH...

ARE YOU SURE THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO LEAD US TO THE SECRET OF ETERNAL LIFE AND YOUTH? I FEEL STRANGELY LIKE MY LIFE SPAN IS SHRINKING...

!!!

SCRUTINIZE AN ACROBATIC SNAKE, EH?

SCRUTINIUM. SCRUTA. GRUTA..???

DICTIONARY

BANG

!

I THINK MY BREATH STOPPED. UM, GODS? IF I CAN'T BREATHE, CAN I STILL HAVE ETERNAL YOUTH AND LIFE?

WH... WHAT'S THIS?

TO SCRUTINIZE IS TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY FROM VARIOUS ANGLES.

REALLY, THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS ABOMINABLE THESE DAYS...

CLICK!

LEGENDS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS!!

THEN WHY NOT JUST SAY IT MEANS "TO LOOK CAREFULLY," SMARTY-PANTS?!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN FUTURES, INSTEAD OF THREATENING OURS?

TO ARRIVE AT A TRUTH, ONE MUST STUDY EVERY CONCEIVABLE RELATED SUBJECT, INSIDE AND OUT.

KA-CHING

I'VE HEARD THAT, PROVIDED YOU CAN IMMEDIATELY GUESS THE CORRECT SNAKE SKELETON...

AN ACROBAT SNAKE IS CLEARLY VISIBLE ON THIS WALL.

*I SEE! AN ACROBATIC SKELETON... IN OTHER WORDS, A FLEXIBLE, WINDING CURVE...*

WHAT'S HE YAMMERING ABOUT...?

IT'S GOTTA BE SOME SORT OF CODE!

IT SHOULD BE A CRIME...LITTLE BOYS GROW UP SO EASILY, BUT TO PROPERLY EDUCATE THEM IS SO DIFFICULT!

...THIS IS IT...THE CORRECT SHAPE OF THE BONES...I-I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF IT.

ALL RIGHT...

GARI GARI

PERNOD'S BRAIN 1

1 HOUR LATER

WHAT...? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...?

WHAT SORT OF SCIENTIFIC LAW...?!?!

PERNOD'S BRAIN 2

2 HOURS LATER

TH... THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

IT NEEDS... MORE... SOME-THING.

THE

PERNOD'S BRAIN 3

3 HOURS LATER

HISSS

SNAKES! WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE SNAKES?!

PERNOD'S BRAIN 4

4 HOURS LATER

HERE, SNAKEY, SNAKEY... HERE... SNAKE...

THOSE ARE SOME BRITTLE BONES. NOT ENOUGH CALCIUM, Y'THINK?

ドン ドン ドン

RAUAAA!

!!

GREAT. OUR VALUABLE CLUE IS RUINED!

YEAH, YEAH.

LET'S SEE...THIS APPEARS TO BE A COMPOUND FRACTURE...

THERE'S JUST ONE OTHER SNAKE THAT COULD POINT US TO THE PARADISE OF ETERNAL LIFE!

LOOKS LIKE THOSE GUYS FORGOT THAT THE SNAKE THEY WERE CHASING COULD STRIKE BACK.

AND HOW WOULD YOU FIND IT? YOU DON'T HAVE A FLUTE TO CHARM IT WITH, DO YOU?

BUT JING, THERE AREN'T ANY RAT SNAKES IN THESE PARTS. HOW CAN A SNAKE POINT WITH NO HANDS OR FEET?

ボォ

YOU, UP THERE-- COME ON OUT!!

A BELL?!

WHAT?!

WE DON'T NEED A FLUTE... JUST A BELL!

SEE?
A SNAKE!

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

THE RIDDLE'S SNAKE IS A *ROPE*, AND THE *"ACROBAT"* PART IS HOW IT'S HELD TOGETHER. SEEMS THE ANCIENT PEOPLE OF REVIVER RECORDED THEIR HISTORY WITH KNOTS OF STRING AND ROPE, RATHER THAN WITH LETTERS OR CHARACTERS.

AND, THIS ONE IS...

V FOR "VICTORY?!"

THIS ONE IS "ENDEAVOR" ...

FOR EXAMPLE...

...THIS KNOT MEANS "FRIENDSHIP."

CLOSE... "ATHLETE'S FOOT."

...DOES NOT SLEEP EASILY...

...BEYOND THAT POINT...

...OF... AN OLD LADY.

ALMOST! THERE'S JUST ONE MORE PART.

SO...?! HAVE YOU FIGURED IT OUT?

ONCE... YOU HAVE FINISHED... READING THESE... WORDS...THIS ROPE...OF DIVINE MESSAGE...WILL LIKELY...

IT'S GONNA BREAK !!!!!!!!!!!

GOOD LUCK..

C'MON, C'MON... SOMEWHERE OUT THERE'S AN OLD LADY'S LIPS WITH YOUR NAMES ON 'EM.

....'CAUSE THIS SNAKE AIN'T STRIKING BACK UP AGAIN!

EEK!

AM I GONNA HAFTA KISS THE OLD BROAD...? I THINK THAT MIGHT BE MORE PAINFUL THAN DYING.

WELL, LET'S GO IN.

CAN I HELP YOU?

WITHIN SLEEPING FOREST AN OLD HAG LIES IN WAIT...

...STEAL A KISS FROM HER LIPS TO SET YOUR PATH STRAIGHT.

SO... LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE PLACE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I COULD PROVIDE A MILLION KISSES IF SHE'S THE ONE!!!

VRRRRRRRR

VRRRRRRRR

GAH!

UH... CAN I *HELP* YOU?

WE'RE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...THERE WOULDN'T BE AN OLD WOMAN STAY-ING HERE, BY ANY CHANCE?

YOU MAY NOT NEED TO ASK... LOOK.

THEN THAT SETTLES IT! HOW 'BOUT WE TAKE THE LIPS OF THIS LITTLE LADY INSTEAD?

YES, AN OLD WOMAN. *DID* LIVE HERE...MANY YEARS AGO.

I MEAN, WE CAN'T KISS A DEAD BODY...CAN WE?

DELIVER THIS REPORT FOR ME, LITTLE BIRDIE. YOU CAN'T LET ME DOWN!

COO

IIPAIIPAIIPAIIPA...

ZU

YOU'RE UP EARLY, VERMOUTH.

W... WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING LIKE A DODO.

YOU MEAN KIR? CAN'T BE HELPED. EVEN WHEN HE DOES STAY UP LATE, HE'S NYCTALOPIC.

EW... WHAT'S THAT?

SOME FANCY TYPE OF NIGHT-BLINDNESS. BY THE WAY... I FOUND OUR OLD WOMAN.

ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE LIVES IN THE MOUNTAIN TOO...

THERE, THERE... WHEN THE MOON COMES OUT, SHE'LL SURELY APPEAR.

REALLY? WHERE? WHERE IS SHE?!

ドドドド

HERE IT COMES.

?

LOOKS LIKE EVEN KIR COULD STEAL A KISS FROM THIS CRONE.

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...I'VE GOT NYCTALOPIA, YOU KNOW...GRUMBLE...

SO...THE SCENERY ITSELF IS THE OLD LADY'S FACE!

GOING? WHERE?

UP AND AT 'EM, KIR. WE'RE GOING.

ゴォォ・・・

WELL... IT IS *MY* FIRST KISS...FROM A FEMALE, ANYWAY.

NOW, ACCORDING TO THE RIDDLE...

FOR OUR FIRST KISS... C'MON!!

...WE'LL BE FINDING A NEW MEANS OF TRANS-PORT SOON.

CIAE

!!?

HAH?! WHO BE YOU LOT?!

HEADACHE

...AN' EVEN IF I DRANK 'TIL THE ENDS O' TH' WORLD, THIS BARREL WOULD STILL BE SUNK!!

GLUG!

I DRINKS AND I DRINKS, BUT I GETS NO RELIEF... I DON'T EVEN GETS ME DRUNK...

HEADACHE

ゴボゴボ

DARE YOU PATRONIZE A VICIOUS DRUNK GONE THROUGH ETERNITY HERSELF? WHY, YOU SCURVY--!!!

UUUUUMMM MMMMM...

WE BE TRAVELLARRS

SHHH...

WAIT--WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET FROM *THIS*?!!!

OKAY... I'M NOT GONNA FIRE BLINDLY, THOUGH. IT'LL COME DOWN TO ONE SHOT. I'M NOT GONNA SO MUCH AS SCRATCH HIS CLOTHING.

HEADA

#104

JING! AN EYE FOR AN AYE, A WHINE FOR A WINE!! COUNTER WITH KIR ROYALE!

THERE'S NO NEW MEANS OF TRANSPORT HERE!!

HEADACHE

CRACK

DGUAAAAAA

HEADACHE

WHY NOT?! PLANNIN' ON STEALIN' IT?

ヒラッ

KIR ROYALE!

GOOOM

!!!

NO GOOD!!!!

IT PASSED RIGHT THROUGH HIM!!

!

ドドドドー

?

?

ARRR... MY THANKS BE TO THEE.

HEA

I'M FINALLY FREE FROM ME ALCOHOLIC PRISON.

IT'S FINALLY GONE.

YAWWWWN. AFTER TWO THOUSAND YEARS, I CAN FINALLY SLEEP IT OFF!!

I'M GRATEFUL TO YE, ME BUCKO.

AWW... THE OLD FOGEY JUST WANTED SOME SLEEP. THAT'S WHY HE WAS GULPING THE WINE SO QUICKLY.

NOT NECESSARILY... MAYBE HE WAS JUST THIRSTY.

I DON'T ENVY THE HEADACHE THAT GUY'S GONNA HAVE TOMORROW.

SOMEHOW, I THINK THIS NICE BREEZE HAS OUR ANSWER, VERMOUTH.

BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR RIDE, JING? WHERE'S OUR NEW MODE OF TRAVEL?

ナナナナ

A BREEZE...?

OH!

BATEAU IVRE

THIS WILL BE OUR BOAT!!

DEAD DRUNK AND SEASICK... GREAT

DRRRRRRN...

14th SHOT - SEVEN COLORS OF ASCENSION

#7

BATEAU IVRE

SHAMPOO

I SMELL SALT WATER... WE'VE REACHED THE SEA.

EH?

キュッ キュッ

FOOOOO-- THAT WAS REFRESHING!!

ALL RIGHT! I THINK I LOOK GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE ON AT LEAST ONE ETERNAL LIFE!!

ゴゴゴ... オオオ...

THIS IS IT, THEN...

BUT...IT'S COMPLETELY DESERTED!

WASN'T THIS PLACE SUPPOSED TO BE FULL OF FORTUNATE PEOPLE WHO NEVER DIED?

THIS IS THE FABLED CITY OF REVIVER? LOOKS LIKE IT COULD USE SOME REVIVING ITSELF!

YOU THINK IT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY? NO SURVIVORS?

ACTUALLY, I'D THINK A PLACE CALLED THE "CITY OF DEATH" WOULD BE A BIT MORE LIVELY THAN THIS.

ZAZAAAN

ZAZAAAN

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

OH!

IS THAT...A PERSON...?!

THIS IS OUR HOLY CITY. ALTHOUGH *HOLEY* CITY IS MORE LIKE IT...OR BETTER YET, THE CITY OF *DEATH.*

♫ IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR AN HOUR, DRINK SOME WINE... ♪

ZUM!

SHEESH, BRONZEY, DON'T LEAD US ON LIKE THAT!

THIS? IT'S A BRONZE STATUE.

♪ IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR THREE DAYS, MARRY SOMEONE FINE. ♪

GRAB!

♪ BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR ALL ETERNITY... ♫

♫

...FISHING IS ABSOLUTELY DIVINE!

♪

THE TEST IS A SUCCESS!! THE MINSTREL IS FOUND!!

OH.

I'VE BEEN WAITING A LOOONG TIME FOR THIS!

MUST BE STRINGING ON FOUR ZEROES BY NOW!!

I GOT ONE! I GOT ONNNE!!!

SO, YOU FINALLY CAME, EH? MR. LEVIATHAN HIMSELF!

SPLASH!

HERE!

ぽてん!

WELL, SEAFOOD DOESN'T GET MUCH FRESHER THAN THIS! THERE'S EVEN SOME FLESH LEFT FOR COOKING!

*IT WILL NEVER DIE... NOT EVEN IF IT ROTS AWAY. SUCH A PITY...*

RIGHT, BIG GUY?

KIIIIIR ROYALE!

!

CRAAASH

VROOM!!

THIS KING OF ETERNAL LIFE WILL TAKE CARE ♡ OF IT.

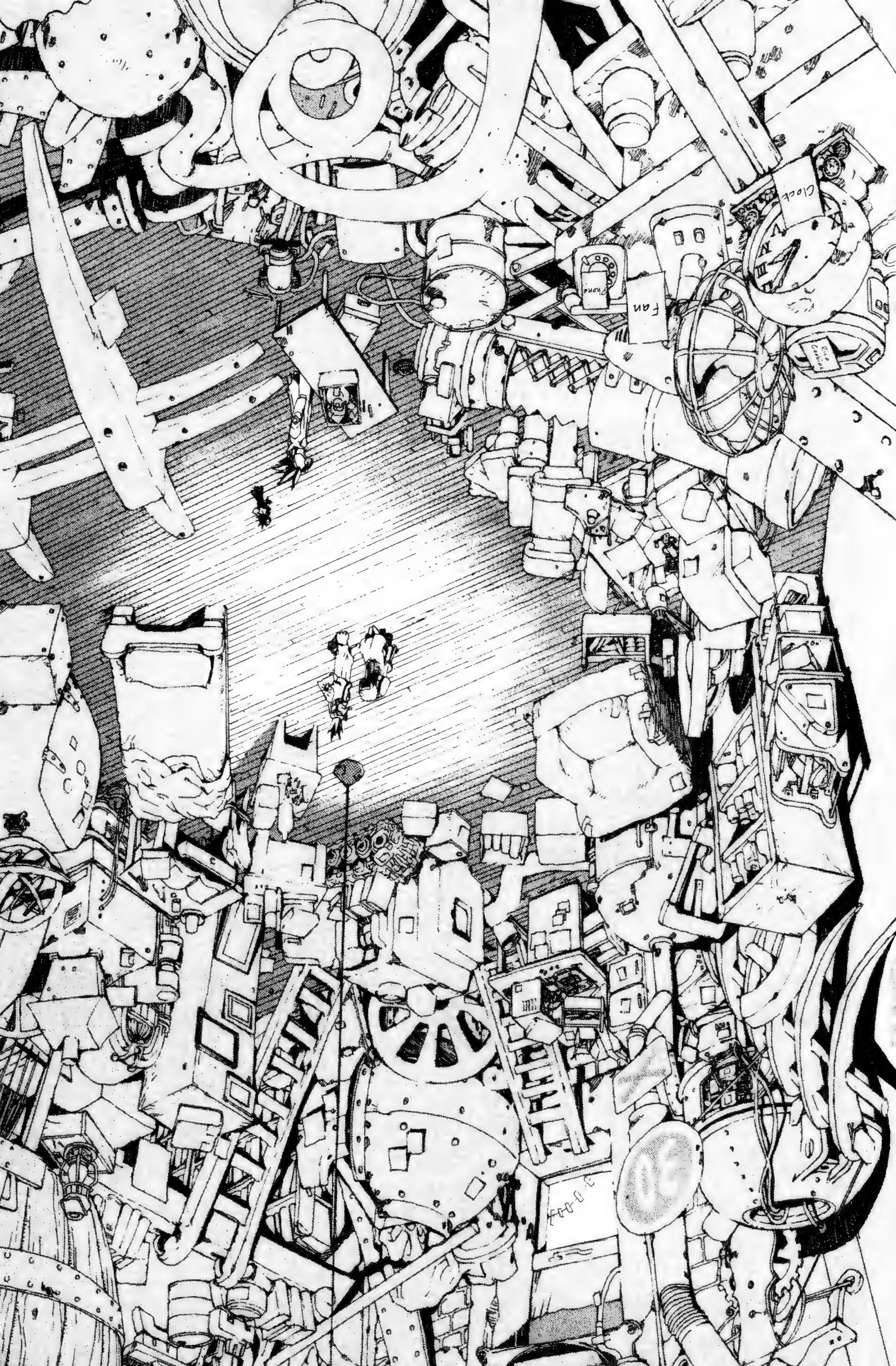
NO NEED TO WORRY...

PAT

FIRST I'M GONNA GIVE YOU MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.

HEY-- VERMOUTH'S NOT BREATHING!

WHAT?


Clock
Fan
Phone

OH, THAT? WELL, I *HAVE* LIVED FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS...SO I'VE BEEN FORGETTING THE NAMES OF THINGS, ONE BY ONE.

Bottle Opener

Teapot

THE NUMBER OF ITEMS I HAVE TO REMEMBER GOES SLIGHTLY BEYOND THE BRAIN'S CAPACITY, YOU SEE.

STILL, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY DUTY TODAY...

OR MAYBE YOU'RE JUST GETTING SENILE.

FUU..

WELL, YES, THAT'S PROB-ABLY IT. BUT THE NAME-CARDS ARE STILL QUITE A GOOD IDEA, DON'T YOU THINK?

SO WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING HERE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, OLD MAN?

AFTER ALL, *YOU'RE* SLATED TO BECOME THE NEXT ETERNAL LIFE KING.

OH, I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING PERPETUAL MOTION. SEE ALL THESE ITEMS LYING ABOUT? FAILED CREATIONS, ALL OF THEM...

THAT ONE'S A WIND-UP CAR COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF MOEBIUS STRIPS... I STILL CAN'T GET IT TO MOVE A SINGLE INCH!!

WINK

AND THIS ONE SUFFERED A SETBACK AFTER ITS FIRST TRIAL RUN, I'M AFRAID...DEAD LIONS AREN'T VERY USEFUL, IT SEEMS.

I TRIED EXPERIMENTING ON A COW...REMARKABLY, ONLY AN EYE SURVIVED. MY HYPOTHESIS WAS THAT THE COW WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE TWICE AS LONG IF IT ALTERNATELY KEPT JUST ONE EYE OPEN. ENERGY CONSERVATION, YOU KNOW.

BUT *THIS* ONE IS A LITTLE SUCCESS CASE!

DO NOT ENTER!!

CHILD FOOD'S

OH! I RECOGNIZE HIM!

!

HE'S THE ONE THAT FREAKIN' DESERTED US!

SORRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, OLD MAN, BUT...WHAT'S UP WITH VERMOUTH'S CONDITION?

YES, VILLARS IS AN ABLE HELPER INDEED.

OH, SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. AFTER ALL...

I KNOW YOUR METHOD--YOU'RE JUST GONNA MASSAGE HER FOR A WHILE AND SHE'LL REVIVE, RIGHT? CAN I HELP OUT?

HHH MMM

...VERMOUTH IS MY CREATION TOO.

MY MASTERPIECE OF PERPETUAL MOTION...SHE'S AN ORIGINAL ODRADEK ENGINE!

IP

PLUMP!!

IPAZY

SEE? ALL BETTER.

KING COINTREAU ...

OH, S-H-O-O-T!

OH.

NOW, NOW, DON'T BE ANGRY. I HAD TO DO IT TO LOCATE THE LEGENDARY "MINSTREL"...

NOW I GET IT! YOU GUYS WERE IN CAHOOTS FROM THE START... ALL THIS WAS JUST A ROUNDABOUT ACT TO GET US HERE... SHEESH.

HUHU... WELL, THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IS...

WHAT IS THIS "MINSTREL" YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT?

ゴオン

...THIS IS THE MINSTREL, SUNG OF IN LEGEND, WHO WILL ONE DAY SUCCEED THE ETERNAL LIFE KING.

...A PERSON WITH ONE LEG RAISED TO HIS CHEST, PULLING AN ELASTIC STRING FROM HIS TORN SHOE LIKE A HARP...

OF COURSE, I KNEW YOU WERE THE WRONG CHOICE FROM THE BEGINNING.

VERMOUTH MUST HAVE BY CHANCE SEEN AN UNMISTAKABLE MINSTREL IN YOU.

JEEZ, YOUR HIGHNESS, NO WONDER YOU'VE LIVED SO LONG!! YOU AVOID STRESS BY NOT SPEAKING WHEN YOU SHOULD!

ズズ...

WHAT THE--?

HEY! THIS ISN'T SOUP!

H...ere's... yo...ur... soup.

SLURP

SO I JUST CALL IT "THE ETERNAL SOUP" AND SIP IT DOWN ALL THE SAME.

HMM... SINCE WE DON'T DIE NO MATTER HOW HUNGRY WE ARE, IT'S ALL RIGHT IF WE DON'T EAT ANYTHING...NOT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE, REALLY.

OH, WELL... THIS IS...THE END. THE "AQUA VITAE" IS YOURS NOW.

I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT FREE TIME, AFTER ALL. SPEAKING OF LEISURE, THIS FELLOW ALWAYS READS TO ME BEFORE I GO TO BED. WHAT'S YOUR STORY TONIGHT, OLD FRIEND...?

ゴゴゴ

IT'S NOT JUST THE PESSIMISM OF AGE TALKING, IS IT?

I MEAN, SHEESH, THE GUY HAS LIVED FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS!!

MY-OH-MY, KING COINTREAU... THE NEXT WORLD! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STILL SPEAK OF SUCH NONSENSE AS DEATH.

I'M SERIOUS.

NO, NO.

SERIOUS, HUH...? BUT--

CACHA

CACHA

REALLY, NOW! IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND! EVEN THROUGH PEACEFUL PERSUASION! THAT THIS FINE WINE WE CALL ETERNITY SHOULD BE TASTED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE GREAT PERNOD!!

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD TEDIOUS PEOPLE WHO GET DRUNK ON THE CHEAP WINE OF "CULTURE."

ドドドドド

ドドドドド

GOOD SHOW, CHINA LILET!! YOU'RE *MUCH* MORE USEFUL NOW THAN WHEN YOU WERE *HUMAN!* HAHAHA!!

GACHA!

GACHA!

GOTCHA !!!!

JING, THE POWER SOURCE! AIM FOR THAT THING ABOVE HIS HEAD!!

KUDOOOM

KIR ROYALE!!

GAOOOOOOON

IT DIDN'T WORK??!

ズン ズン ズン ズン

MAY I BORROW THIS?

?

IT'S OUR TIME...OUR TIME TO GRAB IT!! OUR HUGE FORTUNE!! OUR ETERNAL PLEASURE...HEH EHEE!

GACHA GACHA

CAOOO

HEE HEE!

HEE HEE!

BWA-HA HA HA HA HA!

INTERESTING... WHEN THE FAT ONE TICKLES, THE THIN ONE INVOLUNTARILY MOVES HIS CONTROLLER IN TIME WITH HIS LAUGHTER... MAKING THE FAT ONE TICKLE AGAIN...

TICKLE

TICKLE

GYAHAHA!!

I SHOULD PATENT THIS...THE LAUGHING MACHINE OF PERPETUAL HELL...

TICKLE

GYAHA...

GYAHA...

TICKLE

TICKLE

GYAHA...

GYAHA...

TICKLE

OLD MAN...?

WHADDYA THINK, OLD MAN?

THE LAUGHING MACHINE OF...?

HE'S... REALLY, TRULY DEAD, ISN'T HE?

Come on over when you're ready. Farewell!!

KING COINTREAU ...

Come on over when you're ready. Farewell!!

GACHON..

GACHO

from the lake...to... Hol...ly Howe... farm...

HEY, VILLARS...YOUR MASTER'S DEAD NOW...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

Roger... to...and fro...

IS HE BROKEN?

GACHA...

H-HEY, JING!!!!

YOU GONNA DRINK THAT? JUST ONE SIP FOR ME, HUH?

...IF I DRANK THIS STUFF.

KIR! I WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN THE MOST PRECIOUS THINGS...

JING...! YOU...

LIKE NEVER AGAIN BEING ABLE TO SEE MY MOTHER...

YOU UNDER-STAND, DONTCHA, KIR?

AFTER ALL, THEY SAY THAT CATCHING THESE SEVEN COLORS, EVEN FOR AN INSTANT, IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OF ETERNAL GREY...

Jing will return in Volume 4

This logo was used on the back cover of the old edition of volume three. The cat with the spinning eyes actually appears everywhere in the "King of Bandits" series—it's the symbol of Jing.

# JING, KING OF BANDITS
# INITIAL SET-UP COLLECTION (3)

This armored robot, whose pride and joy is its king-sized hammer, was created as Jing's first nemesis. The injection mouth added to its chest shows that the robot is powered by oil! Since it's a considerable heavyweight, the robot's tactics are made ridiculous by Jing's nimble movements.

# tin soldier

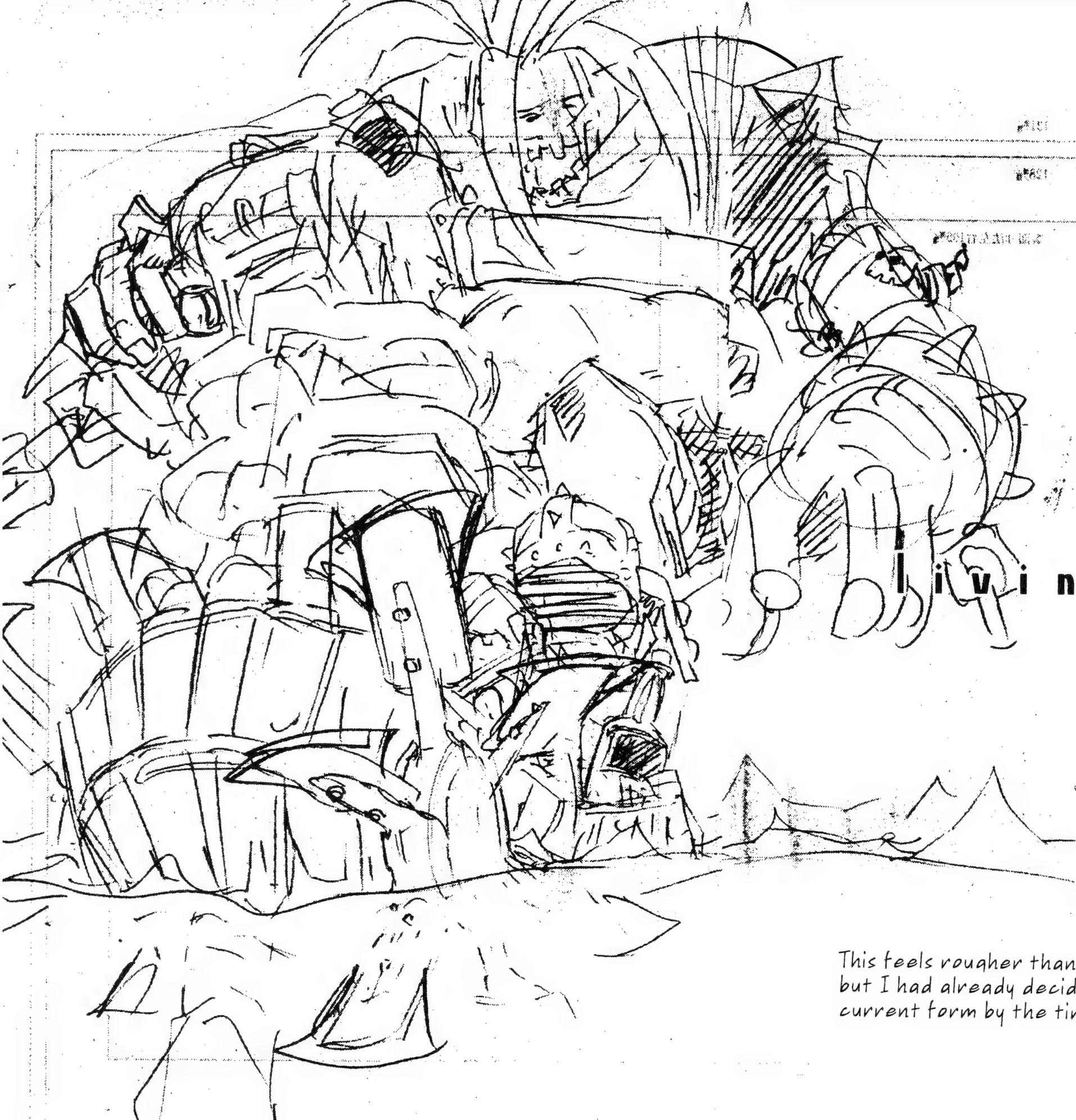
# dinosaur territory

These animals live all around the City of Theieves.
They're mainly used as pack animals.

A zombie that appears on the coastal outskirts of Blue Hawaii. For the Gameboy RPG, it was named Raimi--in honor of Sam Raimi, director of that masterpiece of splatter films, "The Evil Dead."

# l i v i n g  d e a d a

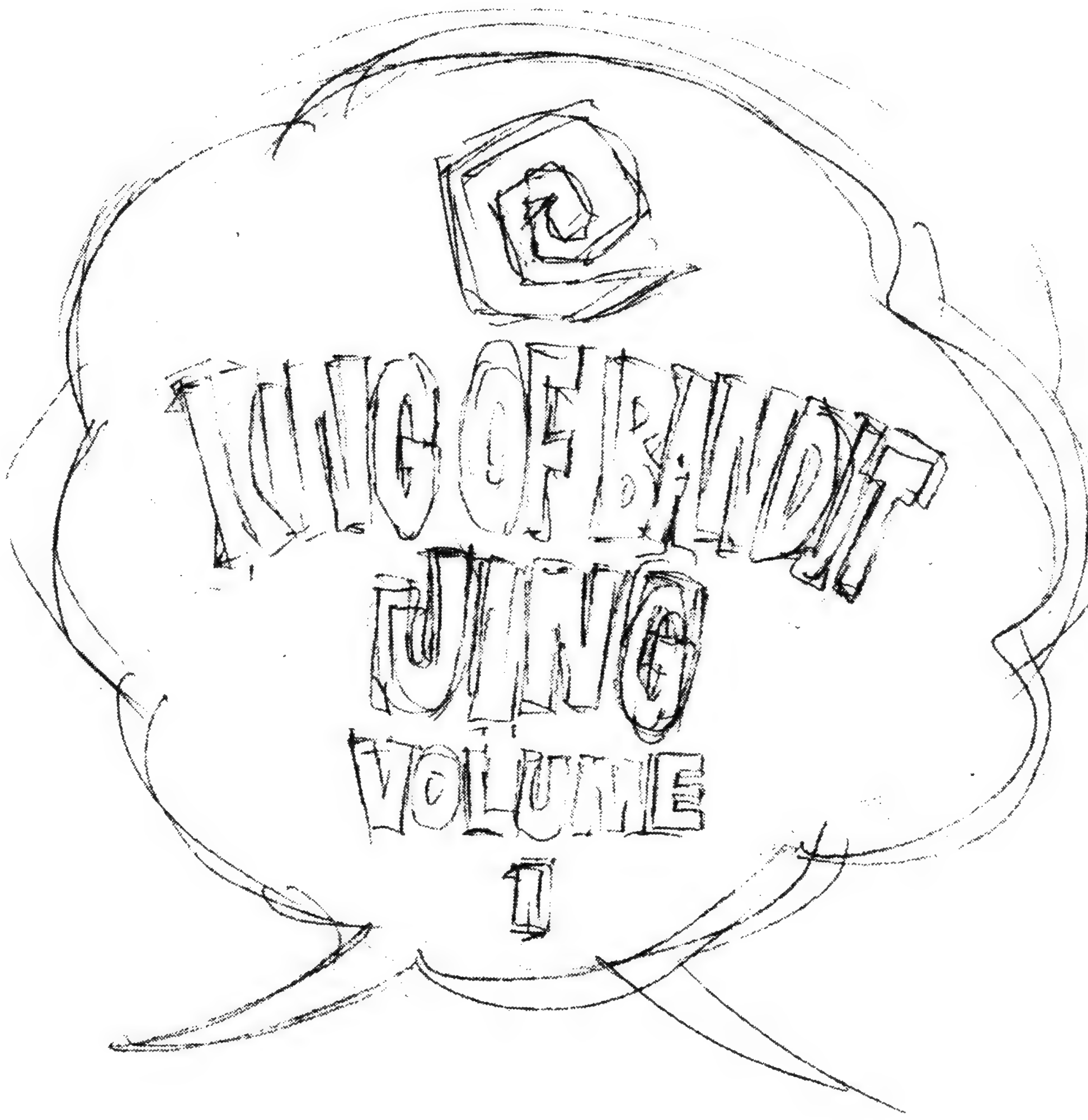
COME AND GO
U-D-100



living dead b

This feels rougher than the zombie on the previous page, but I had already decided on the zombie's current form by the time I drew this.

Another logo, which I designed for the back cover of volume one's old edition. This original circular, billowing logo was eliminated, making more room for the cover illustration.




logomark

# jing&bateau ivre

*corpus lo reviva*

KING OF BANDITS

# 王ドロボウJING

What's this then?
Has the greatest of thieves traded in his trenchcoat for the striped pajamas?
What could our hero and the proverbial (and literal) albatross around his neck be doing in that highest of security prisons, Seventh Heaven?
A detour on the path to Cloud Nine, or a worldly Malebolge for the King of Bandits?

Visiting hours are limited, so reserve your time now.

Volume 4
Available
February 2004

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Manga
Fantasy
USA $9.99

For successful handling of a Porvora, the following five points should always be heeded:

(1) Placing the animal near fire is strictly prohibited.

(2) If a shock vibration triggers an explosion, move as far from the animal as possible.

(3) Carefully earplug the animal during sleep, as accidental explosion may occur if it is awoken by sudden noises.

(4) Although chocolate is the animal's food of choice, all traces of bitterness must be removed, and milk should be added for best results.

Most importantly:

(5) Whenever possible...do NOT handle a Porvora.

(From the Authoritative Text on Handling Dangerous Animals, Vol. 1)

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KING OF BANDITS JING MANKIMAN 3